

# THE LITERARY GAZETTE

AND  
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**TO METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVERS.**—A Balloon Ascent for Scientific objects, under the direction of the Kew Committee of the Council of the British Association, will take place (if the weather be favourable) from Vauxhall Gardens, on Tuesday, the 17th instant, or Thursday, August 19th, at 3 p.m. Meteorological Observers, within 150 miles of London, are respectfully invited to make Observations of the Barometer, Dry and Wet Thermometers, and Daniell's Hygrometer, at every hour (or as often as convenient), from 2 p.m. till 8 p.m., on the day of ascent. If the Balloon should be visible from any station, the Observer is requested to take note of the species and general appearance of the clouds in its neighbourhood; also the exact time of its entering or leaving a cloud. The observations may be transmitted to me at the India House, London.  
W. H. SYKES,  
Chairman of the Kew Committee.  
August 13th, 1852.

**BRITISH ASSOCIATION for the ADVANCEMENT of SCIENCE.**—The NEXT MEETING will be held at BELFAST, under the Presidency of Colonel EDWARD ARNOLD, R.A., Treasurer and V.P. of the Royal Society; and will commence on WEDNESDAY, the 1st of September, 1852.  
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The Second Volume of "Notes upon Russia," being a Translation of the earliest account of that country, entitled *Rerum Moscoviticarum Commentarii*, by the Baron Sigismund von Herberstein, Translated and Edited, with Notes and an Introduction, by R. H. MAJOR, Esq., of the British Museum, is now ready for the Subscribers of 1851, and will be delivered by Mr. RICHARDS, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, to whom all directions on the subject are to be addressed.

Gerrit de Veer's account of the William Barentsoo's "Three Voyages to the Arctic Regions," edited by CHARLES J. BEKE, Esq., Phil. D., is now at press, and will appear shortly.

Mendoza's "Historie of the Great and Mightie Kingdom of China," Translated by R. PARKE, 1588, to be edited by Sir GEORGE STAUNTON, Bart., and a Collection of Early Documents on Spitzbergen, to be edited by ADAM WHITE, Esq., of the British Museum, are in course of preparation.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1852.

## REVIEWS.

*Journal of a Voyage in Baffin's Bay and Barrow Straits in the Years 1850-51, performed by H.M. Ships 'Lady Franklin' and 'Sophia,' under the command of William Penny.* By Peter Sutherland, M.D., Surgeon to the Expedition. 2 vols. Maps and Plates. Longman and Co.

It is now seven years since Sir John Franklin, with a crew of a hundred and thirty-eight souls, entered the arctic circle in the good ships *Erebus* and *Terror*. It is six years since they passed into an area polewards beyond the verge of geographical discovery, beyond the limit of human habitation, and beyond range, we venture to add, of the conditions adequate for the support of human life. Provisioned for little more than half that period, and without the means of adding to their supplies, dare we hope that any one of the missing voyagers survives? It is time to think otherwise. Whatever hope there may have been two years ago in the direction of Wellington Channel, such hope now is more ambiguous than the most sanguine reliance on God's saving providence can bid us cherish. We shall be glad if the searching squadron now on its way thither only bring home to the friends and relatives of the lost some record,—some gladdening evidences, that their end was peace.

The dangers and uncertainty of arctic navigation are described with more minuteness and elaborate detail in the work before us than in any that has yet issued from the press. Dr. Sutherland's narrative is not imbued with the jovial hearty spirit for which the 'Stray Leaves' of Lieut. Osborn was distinguished. On the contrary, it is a little prosy. But our author has a valuable smattering of geology, natural history, and physics, and he has turned it to good account. His journal is a painstaking intelligent diary of all that occurred to his observation from the time he left Aberdeen to his arrival home off Gravesend. During the working of the ships up Davis Strait and Baffin Bay, for example, he gives an almost daily account of its pitchings and tossings, its detainings and its gettings clear. He describes the size, weight, and cubic admeasurement of glacier, iceberg, hummock, and floe, and not a bird comes within gunshot but you have not only its history and habits, but also the contents of its stomach. We must not, however, be understood to speak disparagingly of Dr. Sutherland's unwearied industry. With a little that is puerile and monotonous, there is a large and welcome portion of sound and extremely interesting matter; indeed, it would hardly be possible to get a minuter or more practically useful insight into arctic life than these eleven hundred and fifty pages afford.

The searching expedition under consideration is one of the four that were cruising about Barrow Strait, in the summer of 1850, after news of Sir John Franklin. Captain Austin was there on the part of Her Majesty's Navy, with the *Assistance* and *Resolute*, and their steam-tugs, *Intrepid* and *Pioneer*; Capt. Sir John Ross was there, under the auspices of the Hudson's Bay Company, with the *Felix*; the *North Star* was there, running away with three years' provisions, because she was under orders to deposit them on an island where they would become the prey of

the Esquimaux; the American explorers were there, with the *Advance* and *Rescue*; and lastly, Captain Penny and Dr. Sutherland were there, with the *Lady Franklin* and *Sophia*. Captain Penny is a bold and intrepid whaler, and Lady Franklin and her niece, Miss Sophia Cracroft, desirous of availing themselves of his experience in arctic navigation, prevailed upon the Admiralty to assist in fitting out the present expedition. Two new clipper-built vessels were purchased in Aberdeen and Dundee, and they were christened after the ladies; the crew was appointed chiefly from among the whalers, and in April, 1850, they sailed, with provisions sufficient to last three years.

Having given our readers an account of steaming, sailing, docking, and sledging in the frozen regions, from Lieut. Osborn's lively narrative of the voyage of the *Pioneer* (ante, p. 427), we shall in the present instance confine our extracts to a few miscellaneous paragraphs, of the kind for which Dr. Sutherland's 'Journal' is distinguished. The busy and constant tidal agitation of the iced waves is a characteristic feature:—

"Floe presses against floe; corners are broken off and overlapped; hummocks and ridges are raised in all directions; blocks of ice of all shapes, sizes, dimensions, and weights, from one to twenty, and even sixty tons, are raised up as it were by an 'unseen power.' Huge icebergs of perhaps five hundred millions tons weight, plough up floes for miles and miles without being checked in their destructive course. Nothing is to be seen but ice, 'living ice,' in slow but sure and steady motion, and the surface, which an hour previously presented a level plain of pure white, with pools and meandering lanes of the blue sea, is now one complete wreck; the colour is changed to a mixture of a dirty white and blue, the evenness of the surface is destroyed by masses twenty feet above its former level, and a square foot of open water cannot be seen for many miles around."

It is easy to conceive, from this disturbed condition of the ice, how readily masses of rock and other matter may be transported from place to place on these natural rafts.

"At an elevation of from thirty to forty feet, on a comparatively level part of the west side of the island, we observed a block of granite without a single flaw, measuring sixteen feet in length, fourteen in breadth, and twelve feet in height, and resting on the hard rock beneath, which presented quite a different structure. How it came there, and at what time, were questions, which could be solved by reference to the period in which the island was still beneath the waters of the ocean, which was then occupied, as it is now, by thousands of icebergs, carrying each, perhaps, thousands of tons of rock, and scattering it over the bottom of the sea, for many hundred miles distance from the spot whence it had been received. The specific gravity of granite being 2.5, this block would weigh at least one hundred and eighty-six tons; it would require a cube of ice, with a side of forty feet, to give it buoyancy in the water, and seven fathoms water to float it along. From this it may be easily conceived what an enormous mass of extraneous material icebergs several miles in length and breadth, and drawing two to three hundred fathoms water, are capable of transporting from one place to another, without appearing to be in the least encumbered by it. Mr. Petersen told me that he once laid his nets for white whales in the month of October along the land, where there were only a few fathoms water, and, having left them quite clear, he returned in a few hours to examine them, and, as may be supposed, was pleased to find that some of the buoyant parts had disappeared under water; a sure sign, he thought, that the animals for which they were intended had been entangled in their meshes, and had died, and sunk to the bottom. He proceeded at once to haul them in,

but, to his astonishment, they did not contain a white whale, but an enormous boulder, which he found it impossible to move on the bottom, or to disentangle; and the only way by which he recovered part of his net, was to cut away the portion of it in which the boulder lay. A small berg had been observed in the neighbourhood, which, in passing, took the opportunity of dropping one of its jewels into the nets."

Even the natives are liable to the same unwilling mode of transportation, and not unfrequently run the risk of being floated out into the main ocean.

"About three or four o'clock in the morning the wind came away from N. or N. 20° E., and the loose ice, in which our ships were beset, began to move slowly southward. The alarm was given by the Esquimaux on the fixed ice, at a distance of at least a mile, to their friends who were with us, that the ice was opening out: away they set, with dogs and sledges in the utmost haste,—but it was too late, for there was a lane of water, at least two hundred or three hundred feet wide, between them and their companions on the other side. A large piece of substantial ice was singled out, on the very edge of the loose ice on which they were standing, and to it they transferred their dogs and sledges, with the flesh and skin of the white whale; after which they embarked and pushed off. What with men, boys, dogs, and sledges, it was a motley group; but they seemed to have no fear, although I believe not a soul could have been saved, had the ice given way underneath their feet. By the assistance of two small kyaks, which towed them heartily against the wind, they reached the opposite side in safety, disembarked with care, and joined their companions, who had waited for them with great patience."

Landing at Bushnan Island, towards the upper part of Baffin Bay, Dr. Sutherland obtained an extensive view of the coast of Greenland, looking south, and has some interesting remarks on the glaciers:—

"We commanded a splendid view in all directions. On the one hand, there was abundance of open water, stretching away to the west and north-westward, Cape York, and Baffin's Bay, with its impenetrable covering of ice drifting imperceptibly to the southward. On the other, were Prince Regent's Bay, Cape Melville, Melville Bay, and an extensive glacier range, lost on the most remote part of the horizon, over one-half the compass, stretching to the southward for upwards of nine hundred miles, pouring forth magnificent icebergs, through the deep valleys between the islands, which in many parts could be seen, at elevations of perhaps a thousand feet, cropping out in this adamant but withal moving sea. At Cape Farewell, Mr. Petersen says, the glacier is very far inland, and the icebergs to which it gives birth rarely or never reach the clear and open sea, for they become dissolved or broken up in the deep fiords, which so deeply indent that part of West Greenland. \* \* \*

After the season has advanced far beyond midsummer, the march of the glaciers increases in its progress, and thousands of huge icebergs are set free in the months of August, September, October, and November, owing, perhaps, to there being open water generally at that time along the coast which they have to traverse. The Esquimaux around Disco Bay visit, during winter, the foot of an advancing glacier of very great height, in the neighbourhood of Cloushaven, where they find abundance of very fine halibut, which they draw from a depth of three hundred fathoms. They often observe, during these visits, that the advance of the glacier during the last months of spring is considerably slower than during the last month of autumn and the first months of winter. It seems very probable, that when the icebergs are set free their detachment does not happen by a process of gravitation, which precipitates them into the water, but by a process of flotation, which is the result of stream tides. From the continued prevalence of south winds, after a large body of water has opened out along the coast, and in the top of Baffin's Bay, there will



be an influx of water into all the fiords to the foot of the glaciers, which will facilitate the removal of the icebergs in the autumn. The immense glacier range in Greenland has not received that share of attention from geographers and travellers which such an important subject deserves. Neither the Esquimaux nor the Danish settlers ever do much more than visit the foot of them. Attempts have been made by both to explore those situated at the tops of some of the most accessible fiords, but the gaping crevasses, which came so frequently in their way, proved an obstacle which their spare means, at so great a distance from the settlement, could never overcome."

Captain Penny was specially directed by the Admiralty to examine Jones's Sound, but on reaching that mysterious locality it was found to be impenetrable from the accumulation of ice. Bearing thence past the south-eastern corner of North Devon into Lancaster Sound, the expedition arrived, along with Captain Austin's squadron, which had overtaken them in Baffin Bay, entirely free from incumbrance: "the sea was as smooth as oil; and thousands of seals, in which one could distinguish three species, were seen taking their pastime in the water." The parties were soon at the mouth of Wellington Channel, and it was at this point that the first winter quarters of Sir John Franklin were discovered.

"At six in the evening our party returned, bringing off unexceptionable traces of extensive parties belonging to the missing expedition. About six miles N. of Cape Spencer, the site of an encampment was discovered, where there was a hut made of stones. The floor was neatly paved with thin and smooth stones. The wall was generally about four feet in height, and it enclosed a space twelve feet in diameter. Immediately in connexion with the wall outside, there were two projecting walls, about four feet apart, which enclosed a space that appeared to have been a fire-place, from the ashes and other relics of cookery which it contained. A great many articles were brought off by the party. These included soup canisters, some of which had been used as cooking vessels, while others had the labels entire. \* \* \* There were pieces of oak, such as staves of small casks; the end portions of a small cask with the words 'mixed pickles' scratched on them; also larger pieces of oak, such as might have been procured by splitting up the knees or the doubling of a ship, and they were charred at the ends as if they had been in the fire; the bones of birds also a little burned; but there were no beef bones; part of the leaves of a book (MS.) with some markings on them, and part of a newspaper bearing date September 1844; portions of rope, very much chafed, but easily distinguished as belonging to the Royal Navy by the middle yarn; also torn mittens, cotton rags, and blank paper, all of which the wind had driven beneath the stones. \* \* \* There were a few handfuls of coals in the fireplace, together with birds' wings, tails, heads, feathers, and bones, some of which appeared evidently to have been in the fire. The track of a sledge was discovered, and the marks of the runners, which were very distinct, were found to be two feet apart."

About this time Captain Austin's party discovered the relics at Cape Riley, noticed in our review of Lieut. Osborn's narrative; and further traces were found on Beechy Island, all in the same vicinity, by Mr. Stewart, commander of the *Sophia* :—

"Traces were found, to a great extent, of the missing ships; tin canisters in hundreds, pieces of cloth, rope; wood in large fragments and in chips; iron in numerous fragments where the anvil had stood, and the block which supported it; paper, both 'written' and 'printed,' with the dates '1844' and '1845;' sledge marks in abundance; depressions in the gravel resembling wells, which they had been digging; and the graves of three men who had died on board the missing ships in

January and April 1846. \* \* \* Our ideas were that the ships had wintered in a deep bay between Beechy Island and Cape Riley, which we called 'Erebus and Terror' Bay. Immediately adjacent to the supposed position of the ships, we found the site of a large store-house and workshop, and smaller sites which were supposed to have been observatories and other temporary erections. A great number of coal-bags containing patent fuel in small quantities were found scattered in the vicinity of the sites of these erections, and several pieces of canvas, such as is often used about the deck of a man-of-war; one of the pieces had the letters *T-e-r-r-o-r* written on it. The meat-tins were piled up in heaps in the same regular manner as shot is piled up; each had been filled with loose shingle, and when the tiers of a single layer were completed the interstices were also filled up with shingle. In this way several mounds were raised to a height of nearly two feet, and they varied in breadth from three to four yards. Six or seven hundred tins were counted, and many more besides these were dug up and emptied out in search of documents."

A line drawn from one station to the other would lead directly up the Wellington Channel, but no written record or anything to point to the intended route was found, notwithstanding the eagerness with which the most insignificant thing among the relics was examined. Nature had certainly done her best, for on the sea-shore were impressed the foot-prints of the crew, where they had trodden four years before on disintegrated fragments of coral and other organic remains.

We must now make room for a few of Dr. Sutherland's interesting remarks on the natural history of the arctic regions. Eider ducks were most abundant. On one occasion Captain Penny sent a boat to a small island in Hingston's Bay on the chance of collecting some eggs. It was found literally covered with them :—

"To have walked among the nests, each of which contained four or five, and sometimes seven or eight eggs, without trampling upon some was impossible. In the course of two hours the boat was loaded with the fresh ones, which they believed were to be found in the nests which contained less than the usual number. When they returned to the ship an account was taken of the result of their labours, and 5000 eggs were found to have been removed, which number they believed was about the twentieth or thirtieth part of the remainder."

Whales were observed in great abundance, and occasionally walrus :—

"I recollect, one beautiful morning in October, when hundreds of huge whales, both young and old, were enjoying themselves in their native element, and were often seen leaping out of it like salmon, and falling with a thundering noise as if they had nothing to fear, a 'school' of swordfish was observed in the offing, and in less than half an hour the whales were on their flight, and far out of our sight. \* \* \*

"A 'school' of walrus was seen 'twixt the two islands about the time we met the 'Felix.' They seemed to be a little curious to know what the ships were, and what such unusual objects could be seeking, for they followed us a little way; however, as we were going rather fast for their curiosity, we soon lost sight of them. There must have been at least a dozen of them together. It was amusing to see them raise their huge heads and fierce-looking tusks partially out of the water; and when they went out of sight, with a splash of their hind flippers, it seemed to be more from their sportive manner than from fear. When walrus are met in a drove like this, they do not take fright; and certainly they are formidable assailants, if their curiosity should lead them after some unfortunate Esquimaux in his kayak."

Of the minute infusorial animals, with their siliceous shells, that inhabit the polar seas

in such myriads, Sir James Ross made some valuable observations during his antarctic voyage of discovery in the very ships which Sir John Franklin sailed in. Dr. Sutherland also observed them with interest :—

"Wherever the ice had been very much decayed, a dirty brownish, slimy substance was observed, floating in loose *floculi* amongst it, in the surface of the water. The naked eye could detect in it no structure whatever; but on viewing a drop of it through a microscope which magnified about two hundred and fifty diameters, it was found teeming with animal life, and minute vegetable forms of very great beauty. Now would have been the time to perpetuate them with the pencil and the chalk; but unfortunately I could only consign them to the bottle, with the expectation that their delicate siliceous shells would retain their forms until our arrival in England. No one can conceive the vast numbers of these infusorial animalcules in the Polar Seas. Varying in size from one-fifthundredth to one-thousandth of an inch, a single cubic inch will contain perhaps four or five hundred millions of individuals, each furnished with perfect instruments of progression. \* \* \* A portion of the fine mud, and a little sea-water from the bottom of Assistance Bay, seven fathoms water, which contained abundance of decomposing vegetable and animal matter, and living polygastrica, was allowed to stand for a few weeks in my cabin, where the temperature was frequently below  $+24^{\circ}$ , and never above  $+32^{\circ}$ . The mud settled to the bottom of the vessel, and left about an inch in depth of supernatant fluid, which I examined very frequently. It soon teemed with infusoria exactly the same as those that had been in it on the first examination to which it was subjected immediately after coming into my possession; and I could follow them on the field of the microscope, as they enjoyed their merry pastime in thousands among the shreds and meshes of organisable matter in which the fluid abounded. Large individuals were frequently observed, full of ova, which they could be seen permitting to escape into the fluid, in which they were to take up their future abode. A little of this fluid was added to about twenty times its volume of sea-water in a wine-glass, and allowed to remain quiet and undisturbed for ten days, exposed to the air, except under such a cover as might prevent the access of dust, and to a temperature of  $+27^{\circ}$  to  $+34^{\circ}$ . In a day or two a film of creamy-looking organisable matter appeared on the surface, which prevented evaporation, and thus assisted its countless inhabitants to maintain a higher temperature than that of the air around them. The first examination proved that reproduction was going on by the discharge of ova, which appeared like a pavement of sparkling ocelli in the cambium on the surface; while the water itself presented a living mass of creatures of great beauty and fertility."

One word more on the produce of the dredge :—

"It was very cold indeed, to work with the bare hands among mud and slime, when the temperature of the air was  $+15^{\circ}$  to  $+19^{\circ}$ ; but it was more than amply repaid by the varieties of animals, and the beauties of plants, that came up from their muddy habitats. The Whiting, Gurnard, Bull-head, and the Sucking-fish of the British coasts, had their representatives. But the greatest abundance of animal life was among the Mollusca; next to them the Radiata; and last, although also very abundant, Crustacea. Although most of these may have been known previously, it was not unimportant to be able to extend their geographical range. There were also Algæ, both palmated and filamentous; and among the mud, with a magnifying power of 250 or 280 diameters, one could detect thousands of infusoria, which moved by cilia, and siliceous diatomaceous forms, probably naviculi. I believe a whole volume might be written on a single haul of the dredge. Next to the brittle star-fishes among the radiata, the *Holothuria*, or sea slug, was the most abundant. Among the bivalve molluscs, one could see the living animal of shells found in tertiary deposits over the whole extent of the



island, and at every elevation, from the beach up to four or five hundred feet."

These examples will suffice for the present to show that much valuable and interesting matter may be gleaned from Dr. Sutherland's 'Journal.' On a future occasion we shall direct our attention to his second volume, and notice the wintering in Assistance Bay, the sledging excursions, and the general results of the Expedition.

*Lectures on Ancient History.* By Barthold G. Niebuhr. Translated from the German edition of Dr. Marcus Niebuhr, by Dr. Leonard Schmitz, F.R.S.E. 3 vols. Taylor, Walton, and Maberly.

HORACE WALPOLE tells us that one day, wishing to amuse his father after his retirement from public life, he offered to read a book of history. "Anything but history," said Sir Robert, "history is full of falsehood." When Hume was sending some of the sheets of his 'History of England' to the press, Murdin's 'State Papers' appeared. In that collection were documents which overturned some of his theoretic narrative, and hastening to withdraw what he had written, he exclaimed, in a letter to his friend and brother-historian, Robertson, "We are all in the wrong!" Disraeli, in his 'Curiosities of Literature,' says he had heard of Hume, that certain manuscripts at the State Paper Office were once prepared for his inspection during a fortnight, but that he never could muster courage to pay his promised visit. Satisfied with the common accounts and the most obvious sources of history, when librarian of the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh, where yet may be examined the books he used, marked by his hand, he spread the volumes about the sofa, from which he rarely rose to pursue obscure inquiries, or delay by fresh difficulties the page which every day was growing under his charming pen. Robertson's historical research was of no deeper kind. He paid Horace Walpole a visit to consult him about a projected history of the reigns of William and Anne, and Walpole, in a letter which details the purport of the visit, says that "he seemed to have little other knowledge than what he had taken upon trust." And when afterwards he resolved to write the history of Charles V., he confessed he knew little of the subject, was entirely ignorant of German and Spanish, and on applying to Dr. Birch for a list of books, wrote as if the study previous to composition was a painful duty from which he would gladly escape. "I know very well," he says, "and to my sorrow, how severely historians copy from one another, and how little is to be learned from reading many books; but at the same time, when one writes upon any particular period, it is both necessary and decent for him to consult every book relating to it upon which he can lay his hands." If such are the foundations on which the ordinary notions of most readers of history have to rest, what are we to say of inferior writers, with all the errors arising from prejudice and wilful misrepresentation. In the cases of Hume and Robertson, they acted under desire of saving labour, and in confidence of their literary ability. Their works, when read by those who know these things, afford more pleasure from their style than satisfaction from their facts. But if this uncertainty rests on the materials of modern history, the facts of which are comparatively within easy

reach, what confidence have we in the accuracy of the histories of ancient times? If these things are done in the green tree, what are we to expect in the dry? Fortunately all historians are not chargeable with such faults. To give no more recent instances, Gibbon displayed laborious study equal to his literary genius. But we fear that even in our own time there are some writers of history whose rhetoric is more notable than their research, and who, as far as possible, save themselves from much reading by their good writing.

Niebuhr is the type and model in modern times of the trustworthy historian. Originality of thought and liveliness of style he possessed in no common degree, but he is distinguished far more by extensive learning and profound research. One of his youthful letters, written while at the University of Kiel, discloses the early aspirations of his historical genius. "From the peculiar direction of my mind and talents, I believe that Nature has intended me for a literary man, an historian of ancient and modern times. If my name is ever to be spoken of, I shall be known as an historian and a political writer—as an antiquarian and a philologist." How nobly these early expectations have been fulfilled is now itself matter of history. The name of Barthold Niebuhr is in the first rank of modern historians, and his works are regarded as marking an era in this department of literature. Having lately (*ante*, p. 29) in reviewing a memoir of Niebuhr, given an outline of his life and labours, and having already (*ante*, p. 560) narrated the origin of the present work, and the peculiar circumstances of Dr. Schmitz's English edition, we now give some account of the spirit and the subjects of the 'Lectures on Ancient History.'

The book professes to be a record of events from the earliest times to the taking of Alexandria by Octavianus, and to comprise the history of the Asiatic nations, the Egyptians, Greeks, Macedonians, and Carthaginians. Dr. Schmitz, the editor of the 'Lectures,' of which he possesses MS. notes, containing matter not in the German edition, says:—

"They embrace the history of the ancient world, with the exception of that of Rome, down to the time when all other nations and states of classical antiquity were absorbed by the empire of Rome, and when its history became, in point of fact, the history of the world. Hence the present course of lectures, together with that on the history of Rome, forms a complete course, embracing the whole of ancient history."

This description of the work must, however, be received with some qualification. On some periods of early history the narrative is very meagre, and the author treats chiefly of those nations belonging to what may be called 'Classical Antiquity.' To the history of the Greek race the greater part of the 'Lectures' are devoted, and other nations and races are viewed principally in their relations to Greece. The scanty records of other lands that have come down to us rendered this unavoidable, but the discoveries and researches of recent years have added much to what was known in Niebuhr's day of some of the nations of antiquity. When greater advances have been made in the fields in which M. Botta and Dr. Layard have distinguished themselves, and when further progress has been made in deciphering the Asiatic inscriptions, Niebuhr's account of the Eastern nations will appear very crude and elementary. It is remarkable, however, that

he long ago predicted the discoveries which have signalized our time. Speaking of Nineveh and of Babylon, he says:—

"While at Rome, I was intimately acquainted with a Chaldaeo-Catholic priest, a united Nestorian from Armenia; he was a particularly well-educated and distinguished man, as generally all Eastern Christians are, when they have received a European education. They have an unquenchable thirst for mental culture and knowledge, which renders it the more deplorable that they are doomed to live under Mahomedan tyranny. This man told me, that being a native of a village built on the ruins of Nineveh, he had often been present when bricks were dug out of the ground. In his time, he said, a colossal statue had been discovered by men ploughing a field; but the Mahomedans ordered it to be broken, as they do with everything else that is brought to light. He also mentioned, that gems, with figures engraved on them, are found. There is no doubt that, if excavations were made at Nineveh, and rightly conducted, many ancient treasures and inscriptions would be discovered. The circumference of the city on both sides of the Tigris measures several geographical miles.

"The site of Babylon occupied a still more extensive space. Herodotus calculates it at 480 stadia, or about sixty English miles; Diodorus and Strabo make it a little less.' This enormous extent has often been the subject of ridicule, as if it were utterly fabulous; but from the most recent investigations of English travellers, it appears that we cannot suppose the circumference to have been less."

"The burnt bricks are of the greatest perfection, surpassing even those of the Romans. Nearly all of them are stamped, and the larger ones are covered with long inscriptions, which have not yet been deciphered. They remind us of the tradition, that in ancient times Seth or Sem wrote whatever was known of past ages partly on burnt and partly on unburnt bricks, that it might escape being destroyed, both by water and by fire; for in the case of water dissolving the one set of bricks, the burnt ones would not be injured, and in case of fire, the dried ones would only be hardened. This tradition evidently indicates that the knowledge of bygone times was conceived to have been thus preserved. There can, accordingly, be no doubt that these bricks, many of which are now in England, are of the greatest importance. They would be most useful, if they contained historical accounts; it is possible, however, that they may contain only theosophy, or astronomical observations, or other things; but they are at any rate of great importance. The Greeks, like Callisthenes, expressly attest that the astronomical observations of the Babylonians were printed on bricks. There are also vases with hieroglyphics and cuneiform inscriptions. A stone with such inscriptions has also been found at Susa; it is said to have been removed, but what has become of it is unknown, though the English have diligently endeavoured to recover it. At present several monuments of the same kind are said to have been brought to light. When the Zend language shall be discovered, of which there is now great hope, there can be no doubt that the cuneiform writing of Persepolis will likewise be read, attempts at which have already been made. On the walls of that city there are three kinds of writing, one by the side of the other, and the characters of one of them resemble those on the Babylonian bricks and the so-called cylinders. When this cuneiform writing of Persepolis shall be discovered, we shall also be able to read the Babylonian inscriptions, and a new and wide field of Asiatic history will be thrown open. If the investigations are carried on systematically, history will be dis-entombed from the ruins of those cities, especially if European influence should be brought to bear upon those countries; and this would be a blessing which, I wish with all my heart, may be conferred upon the Christians of those countries, who thirst after enlightenment and mental culture."

As a characteristic specimen of Niebuhr's



writing, combining calm investigation of facts with enthusiasm as to his subject, we give his account of the famous—

"BATTLE OF MARATHON.

"The battle of Marathon is as certain as any of the great events of modern times, which have decided the fate of the world. There can be no doubt that the Persians were completely defeated, and were glad to escape to their ships and return to Asia, 'with the captured Eretrians.' But the particulars of the battle are uncertain; most of them resemble the well-known deed of Cynegirus, who madly seized a Persian galley and wanted to hold it back. All this is poetical, and may serve to rejoice and warm us, but we cannot take it as history. 'The Greeks were drawn up as a phalanx, in which each phyle occupied an equal part of the front, with more or less depth, from eight to fifteen men. Now, if we suppose that in the battle of Marathon the Athenians were drawn up ten men deep, we have a front of 1000 men. With such a front, opposed to an army of 300,000 men, the wings of the Greeks are said to have gained the victory; their centre is said to have been broken through by the Persians, and the victorious wings on both sides to have crushed the hosts of barbarians. This is the account of a poet, who does not think of mathematical proportions: such also is the case in the 'Iliad,' and similar stories occur in the very heart of history. The poets of popular and martial ballads did not dream of giving a military report. The statement, however, that 6000 Persians were slain, and only 192 Athenians, is more credible. Another account estimates the number of the Persians who fell in the battle at 200,000.' Even at the present day the plain of Marathon is marked by the mounds, under which the bodies of the barbarians were buried, 'and the Athenians who fell on that day, probably rest under the same, for it does not seem that the fallen heroes were at that early time buried in the Ceramicus.' That plain is the charnel-house of Murten for Greece. When happier days shall fall to the lot of Hellas, that hallowed battle-field too will be examined, and will yield a rich harvest. 'Many things used in the battle have already been dug out of the ground; there have been found near Marathon, leaden balls, thrown by slingers, with the inscription ΔΕΧΟΙ, points of arrows made of stone, which must have been fastened on reeds, and consequently have been used by very uncivilized people; but others are of brass and copper, and there can be no doubt that these things were used in the battle of Marathon. How many glorious things are there that still require to be investigated!'"

In many instances the philosophical caution in receiving the traditional and vague narratives of ancient writers leads Niebuhr to a scepticism almost too severe. For example, in his summary of the character of Alexander the Great, for whom he has little respect except as a general, he says:—

"In theatrical historians, we read the moving tale of the water which a soldier brought to Alexander, and how he poured it out in order to show them that he would share all their sufferings with them. I suspect it was with Alexander as it was with another great general, who ate a piece of coarse bread, but is said to have had a delicate morsel concealed in it."

Frequent are such sarcastic criticisms of what he calls the 'tales of rhetoricians,' and of 'theatrical historians.' His examination of the popular account of the battle of Thermopylae is conducted with stern impartiality, and perhaps disagreeable success, for it is not pleasant to have the romance of such a story rudely destroyed. But here is the historian's comment on the story of the 300 heroic Spartans who alone resisted the countless hosts of Asia:—

"It is inconceivable that, as the Greeks did make a stand at Thermopylae, no one else took

his position there except King Leonidas and his Spartans, not including even the Lacedaemonians, for they remained at home! Only 1000 Phocians occupied the heights, though that people might surely have furnished 10,000 men; 400 of the Boeotians were posted in the rear, as a sort of hostages, as Herodotus remarks, and 700 Thespians. Where were all the rest of the Greeks? Not one Athenian is found there; a number of them, it is true, manned the fleet, but not all of them; and why were not the others at Thermopylae? why was not Leonidas joined by the other nations of Peloponnesus, such as Arcadians and Eleans? The Argives, we know, would not move, because they were negotiating with the Persians. To these questions there is no answer; and all we can say is, that here, as so often in human life, things happen which are quite inconceivable and irrational. Countless hosts are invading Greece; the Greeks want to defend themselves, and are making active preparations at sea; but on land hundreds of thousands are met by a small band of Peloponnesians, 700 Thespians, 400 Thebans as hostages, and 1000 Phocians, stationed on the heights! A pass is occupied, but only that one, and the others are left unguarded; for the roads to the Doric tetrapolis and to Ætolia were open, and even if the Persians had not become acquainted with the pass, betrayed to them by Ephialtes, they might, without any hindrance, have proceeded to Delphi, and by this round-about way they might have reached the rear of the Greeks without any resistance! All this is quite unintelligible; it would almost appear as if there had been an intention to sacrifice Leonidas and his men; but we cannot suppose this. These circumstances alone suggest to us, that the numbers of the Persian army cannot have been as great as they are described; but even if we reduce them to an immense extent, it still remains inconceivable why they were not opposed by greater numbers of the Greeks, for as afterwards they ventured to attack the Persians in the open field, it was certainly much more natural to oppose them while marching across the hills. But however this may be, it is an undoubted fact, that Leonidas and his Spartans fell in the contest, of which we may form a conception from the description of Herodotus, when, after a resistance of three days, they were surrounded by the Persians. A few of the Spartans escaped on very excusable grounds, but they were so generally despised, that their life became unendurable, and they made away with themselves. This is certainly historical. There can be no doubt that, along with the Spartans, the Helots also fell, though no one speaks of them; 'the inscription mentions 4000 Peloponnesians as having fought there, but the proud oligarchs did not include the Helots.' The 700 Thespians who would not abandon Leonidas also fell, and these, too, have not received from posterity the honour that is due to their memory. Thus we have here an example of the manner in which the same act is viewed in one light for one party engaged in it, and in another light for others: the deeds of the one are forgotten, and those of the others are held in everlasting remembrance."

In his delineations of character, Niebuhr is almost always striking and happy. His sketches of the historians of antiquity will be read with peculiar interest. Of Thucydides he speaks with enthusiasm:—

"The first real and true historian, according to our notion, was Thucydides: as he is the most perfect historian among all that have ever written, so he is at the same time the first; he is the Homer of historians."

The descriptions of the Athenian orators are also drawn with great spirit. Of Demades, whose name is less known than some others, he gives the following account:—

"Demosthenes had many talented contemporaries, but all were far below him; and there were among them many who by their moral obliquity were directly opposed and hostile to him. One of these was Demades, the rude and vulgar sailor, though he was then, next to Demosthenes, the

first man in point of talent. He was the son of a common boatman, and had himself, in his early youth, been engaged in the same trade, when all at once his genius impelled him to come forward as an orator in the popular assembly, where, without any previous study, by his wit and talent, and more especially by his gift as an improvisatore, he rose so high, that he exercised great influence upon the people, and sometimes was more popular even than Demosthenes. With a shamelessness amounting to honesty, he bluntly told the people everything which he felt, and what all the populace felt with him. When hearing such a man, the populace felt at their ease; he roused in them the feeling that they might be wicked without being disgraced; and this excites with such people a feeling of gratitude. There is a remarkable passage in Plato, where he shows, that those who deliver hollow speeches without being in earnest, have no power nor influence; whereas others, who are devoid of mental culture, but say in a straightforward manner what they think and feel, exercise great power. It was this circumstance which, during the eighteenth century, gave the materialistic philosophy in France such enormous influence with the higher classes; for they were told that there was no need for being ashamed of the vulgarest sensuality; formerly people had been ashamed, but now a man learned that he might be a beastly sensualist, provided he did not offend against elegance. People rejoiced at hearing a man openly and honestly say what they themselves felt. Demades is a remarkable character; he was not a bad man, and I like him much better than Æschines. The latter made all the pretensions of a good citizen, and even had the audacity to vilify those who really were good citizens: but all in him is untrue and false. His hatred of Demosthenes is as much the hatred of mediocrity against genius, as that of political aversion: it is the hatred of antipathy and envy, of mental and moral depravity against that which is excellent. Demades, on the other hand, took matters in an extremely naïve manner, and said, in plain words, that there had indeed been different times, when this or that would not have done, but that now everything was lost, and that it was every man's business to feather his own nest; that they must undertake public duties in order to obtain from the state as much money as possible, so as to be able to lead a merry life. Such things he said without any misgivings; but he hated no man. This accounts for his conduct towards Demosthenes, whom he did not hate, but whom he thought exceedingly stupid. Sometimes he actually did essential service to the republic; as in evil times the best man often does harm, while the worst is useful. In the whole of modern history there never was a purer or more unblemished statesman than Pitt, and yet at times a bad one was more useful, nay more necessary than he. In like manner, there have often been bad patriots who, nevertheless, did good service to their country."

In the preceding extract it will be observed that several allusions are made to events of modern history. This is one thing which gives a charm to the 'Lectures.' Parallels are perpetually drawn between the noted characters of antiquity and those of modern days, and the subjects under discussion are illustrated by references to well-known and familiar events. Thus, in speaking of the crowds of foreign ambassadors who came to Alexander the Great at Babylon, which he compares to the scenes at Dresden before Napoleon went to Russia, the author discusses the probability of a statement by Clitarchus, which has been much questioned, that among the other nations of the West were ambassadors from Rome. The rumour of an intended invasion of Europe by the conqueror of Asia had spread even to the Celts and Iberians, after mentioning which, Niebuhr proceeds:—

"If we consider that the Romans had just concluded a treaty with Alexander of Epirus, I



see no reason why they should not also have carried on negotiations with Alexander the Great, for the purpose of providing for the threatening tempest. Livy's belief that the Romans were unacquainted with the name of Alexander is extremely thoughtless; the Romans knew very well that the Persian empire was overthrown, and that Alexander had made immense conquests. Maritime communications in antiquity were very active and extensive, and the notions commonly entertained on this subject are quite erroneous. After the expulsion of the kings, Roman ships sailed as far as Spain, as we see from the treaty with Carthage; the Romans, therefore, might very well know about Alexander. At the present time, reports of European occurrences reach the interior of Africa, Persia, and China with inconceivable rapidity. Thus the French revolution was known in the distant east at an early period, but in a peculiar manner; the people in Persia and on the coast of Arabia could not understand it. I have heard strange things from those who had travelled in those countries; even in China it was very soon known. The present insurrection of the Greeks was known in the interior of Africa; in the year 1823, the attention of everybody in Sacatoo and Borneo was occupied with it; it was imagined to be a general war between Christians and Mahomedans. As nations little more than half savages knew of these things, why should not the highly civilized nations of ancient Italy have heard of Alexander's progress and conquests? Whoever could tell of these things, was no doubt listened to by thousands. During the seven years' war, my father met in Yemen the minister Fati Achmed, who knew about the war, and by the many questions he asked about the relations between England and France, he showed that he took great interest in them. He had maps of countries, of which he could not read the names, but he nevertheless formed some notions from them. In Japan there exists a complete European atlas in Japanese characters; and from it the geography of Europe has been learned for the last forty years, although the Japanese exclude Europeans. 'It is asked, how did the Romans find their way to Babylon?' If Etruscan and even Spanish ambassadors found their way, why should not the Romans have found it?"

The summary of the character of Pyrrhus also is a good specimen of this art of illustrating ancient history by modern allusions, and is altogether characteristic of Niebuhr's style. We have space for only a few sentences:—

"His great fault was his want of perseverance; he had no definite object, and lived only for action. He neglected his duties as a ruler, and acted as a private man who will not be bound down, but interferes in the most active manner when there is no need of it. \* \* Like Charles XII., Pyrrhus lived less for his kingdom than for himself. He and Alcibiades are, properly speaking, the only men in antiquity that have a really chivalrous character. Pyrrhus conducted his war against the Romans in a spirit like that of the knights, who in their tournaments fought for life and death in order to be honoured with the prize from fair hands. He very soon forgot that he had been victorious, saw the Romans in the most favourable light, and conceived such attachment for them, that he acted unjustly towards his own allies. It would be well if such *εὐνοίαι*, as then arose between Pyrrhus and the Romans, existed oftener between political parties and also in literary disputes."

The critical remarks on matters of philosophy, politics, and literature, everywhere interspersed through the narrative, greatly add to the interest and value of the 'Lectures.' No work has appeared of late years presenting greater vigour of thought and shrewdness of remark, and its study may be recommended as much for the healthful exercise of the intellect as for the acquisition of historical knowledge.

*The Fortress of Comorn.* By Colonel Sigismund Thaly. Madden.

THIS is an account of the fortress of Comorn, its condition, sieges, and final surrender, in the course of the Hungarian War of Independence, in the years 1848 and 1849. The author of the book is Colonel Thaly, the director of the fortifications in the fortress, who, it appears, wrote his MS. in German. The translator is Mr. Rushton, a Master of Arts of the London University, and he has executed his task with great ability.

Mr. Rushton's labours, too, have had a worthy object. This is saying a great deal in the case of a book on that unfortunate Hungarian war, which caused so much misery to the nations that took a share in it, and which, from first to last, and beyond the last, even to this day, has inundated the world with such floods of trashy literature. The war in Hungary has certainly very little claim to public favour, from any of the accounts which have hitherto been given to the readers of this country. We take it that the era of good literature on the subject of that war is only just now dawning upon the world. We have had a deal of bombastic rhodomontade and painfully clever tergiversation, but very little truth. Now, however, there is a promise of Dembinski's memoirs, and here is actually Colonel Thaly's account of the Hungarian War, in so far as it relates to the fortress of Comorn. It throws some new and striking light on certain events, on which former writers, if they did not actually seek to mislead the public, were at least content to be silent. It avows the mismanagement of Hungarian affairs from the beginning to the end of the struggle. In the case of Comorn, it shows that that important fortress was preserved to M. Kossuth's government by the merest accident, and that its commanders, with the sole exception of Guyon, were either incapable, fainthearted, or traitorous. It furnishes a complete, and, after much patient inquiry, we can conscientiously affirm, a true account of the battles which Görgey and Klapka fought in the vicinity of Comorn; it traces the commencement of Görgey's treason, and exposes the mean and disgraceful motives which finally led to the surrender of the fortress. Its publication at this moment is extremely opportune; its statements are the most lucid commentary, and the best refutation of Görgey's 'Vindication,' and must needs have considerable weight, since its author is among the few Hungarians whose honourable and patriotic conduct even enmity itself has never dared to impugn.

We have hitherto dwelt on the graver features of this valuable contribution to the history of modern times; we now pass to its more popular traits. Such, for instance, as the anecdotes of the siege and its accidents, which, although terrible in themselves, are told in a good-humoured, pleasant way, with a slight tinge of that caustic gravity which gives so great a zest to the conversation of the true Magyar. We select one specimen:—

"During the earlier period of the cannonade, a number of persons were sitting in a coffee-house in the so-called Kars-uteza, when suddenly a sixty-pound bombshell broke through the roof and floors of the house, falling down at the feet of the assembled company. All present seemed turned to stone: pale and motionless, they gazed upon the fearful instrument of destruction. One and all seemed devoted to inevitable death. Another moment, and they are all to lie around, a heap of

mangled corpses. At this juncture, the landlord, John Mayer, took his chair, placed it immediately over the bomb, crossed his arms, and sat down, crying out in piteous tones—'Fulfil thy mission!' The bombshell did not burst."

Görgey, the traitor of Vilagos, has been the great card of the ultra-Magyars in all that relates to field operations: though they condemned his treason, they considered themselves bound to extol his generalship. It is quite a relief to find at least one Hungarian writer who has candour enough for an honest confession of the truth. Colonel Thaly says:—

"Before Görgey was appointed Commander-in-Chief, he had not a single victory to boast of. The storming of the Braniesko defiles, in January, 1849, was owing to the valorous conduct of Guyon, for during that engagement Görgey sat still at headquarters. He took no active part in the battles of Hatron and Bieski, came in at the end of the fray at Tszaszeg; looked on while Damjanich took Váes, and remained in his quarters while Damjanich, Klapka, and Guyon crushed the Austrians at Nagy-Sarlo. But yet, for all these deeds of arms, Görgey was the man who, as superior general, earned the greatest fame and the highest distinction."

The following is an account of an interview with General Haynau. After Görgey's surrender at Vilagos, when the Commander of Comorn was summoned to follow his example, Colonel Thaly, and a citizen of Comorn, of the name of Katona, were, under the protection of a safe-conduct, sent to investigate the extent of the national losses. They started on this journey on the 22nd August.

"When we arrived at Arad, we found that the fortress had been surrendered, and we received full confirmation that Görgey had laid down his arms. But Haynau refused to allow us to continue our journey to Petervarad. . . . He gave full play to the brutal feelings of his low-minded nature. When we were first presented to him, he began to browbeat my colleague, who was not a military man, because he presumed to appear before such a presence in civil costume. He then went on to scoff at the misfortunes of an enemy, once feared, but now laid low. I asked permission to confer with General Damjanich. 'Eh! eh! what general?' cried the brute. 'He is no general; he is my prisoner. You cannot see him.' 'Go back to Comorn,' said he, 'and say that the garrison ought to surrender, for no longer does a Hungarian army exist.' We said that we could not make such a report with a clear conscience. 'Then I will put you all to the edge of the sword,' he replied. 'I will massacre every one of you.'"

Anecdotes of the same kind, some good and some bad, are given of almost all the men who took a prominent part in the war. The book abounds in statements of Guyon's bravery, and Klapka's want of resolution and lack of moral courage. Its publication is likely to be a severe blow to the hero-worshippers in this country; but it must ultimately do good to the cause of the suffering and deluded people whose frantic struggle for independence it commemorates, by showing in its true light by what men and by what means the fortunes of Hungary were made and marred.

*Sixteen Months at the Gold Diggings.* By Daniel B. Woods. Sampson Low.

UNTIL a treaty of international copyright be concluded between this country and the United States, we believe there is little chance of American literature assuming that rank and acquiring that importance which ought to be attributable to the literature of so great a nation. We learn with pleasure, from re-



liable sources, that American authors and publishers are daily becoming more alive to the fact that the advantages of such a treaty would be mutual, and not, as they long believed, wholly one-sided. Until this conviction bears its natural fruits in the form of a copyright convention, the appearance of high class works, by American writers, will be far more limited than might fairly be expected in so populous and intelligent a country. Meantime, each successive year adds to the accumulation on our shelves of an unpretending and peculiarly American class of books, consisting of local and travelling sketches in the prairie, the mine, the backwoods, and the mountains—sketches of small literary pretensions, but often highly characteristic, forcible, and true, and seldom otherwise than interesting to dwellers in the well-ordered cities and well-cultivated plains of the Old World, who read with double zest the tales of hardship and wild adventure in new countries and savage lands. Springer's 'Forest Life' was the last volume of the kind to which we drew attention. To the woodcutter now succeeds the gold-digger. In a compact and interesting little volume a Philadelphian clergyman has given us the results of his sixteen months' experience at the diggings.

In Stock Exchange phrase, the Rev. Daniel B. Woods is decidedly a *bear* of Californians. His view of the gold-seeker's employment is melancholy in the extreme. We are not on that account less disposed to credit his statements than those of writers who have drawn a brighter picture of the subject. Many of these have been too ready to look at the golden side of the shield, and have forgotten to expose its silver, or rather its iron face. With one of the best and most recent English accounts of California (Shaw's 'Golden Dreams and Waking Realities') the narrative of Mr. Woods tallies in all essential points. Here and there a fortunate miner stumbles upon wealth, and if he be wise enough not to drink and gamble it away almost as rapidly as he accumulated it, he returns home to display his treasure and vaunt the modern Eldorado. For every adventurer who is thus successful, hundreds amass but a scanty pittance, less in many instances than steady industry would have procured them in their own country, and depart disappointed, or perish from intemperance and disease.

On the 2nd of July, 1849, Mr. Woods and his companions, each with forty pounds of baggage on his back, (miner's tools, provisions, blankets, &c.), walked from Sacramento, twenty-nine miles, to Mormon Island, and next day eight miles further to Salmon Falls, where they commenced operations. Mr. Woods had been requested by friends to keep a journal of his mining life, with a view to exhibiting its lights and shades, advantages and mishaps, to projecting miners. He seems to have done this very conscientiously, and two-thirds of his volume are in the form of a diary, which, however, is neither dry nor monotonous. His first day's venture was not very encouraging. He had been just five months making his way from Arch-street, Philadelphia, to the wet diggings at Salmon Falls, and on the 5th of July, when he began work, his gains were exactly five shillings. His share of the gold reached the magnificent sum of 1 dollar 25 cents. Next day was a little better, and he obtained four dollars'

worth of the shining scales. Another day brought forth twenty dollars per man, and they saw plainly that mining was a lottery, especially when, one morning before breakfast, two Irishmen collected upwards of four hundred dollars' worth of gold. To be brief, three weeks were spent in hard work, two in an exploring tour, and when all expenses were paid and the residue divided, Mr. Woods and each man of his company received two dollars as total surplus. Hardship, exposure, irregular diet, lack of vegetables, wet feet, a broiling sun, and drinking-water impregnated with mineral substances, brought on disease, which prostrated many. Disgusted with Salmon Falls, the company departed for Weaver's Creek. After six weeks' toil, Mr. Woods weighed his store of gold, and found he had thirty-five dollars.

"August 25th.—Yesterday I returned to Salmon Falls, and am again encamped beneath the old oak upon the hill, Mr. C. and his friend being with me. They have slung their hammocks up among the branches, where they sleep comfortably, protected from the ants and vermin. My bed is, as usual, upon the ground, where even my night-bag does not guard me from the annoying attacks of the ants and lizards. Last night, after I had fallen asleep, my companions were aroused by hearing a ciote (? coyote) barking near us, and soon they saw him come and smell of my hands and face, seeming to doubt whether he could take a bite without being detected."

According to English ideas, gold digging is a singular and not very reputable occupation for a clergyman. In America the view taken may be different, and we can scarcely doubt that it is, since we find the Catholic Bishop of Philadelphia supplying Mr. Woods with a general letter of recommendation to the priests in Mexico, which was of great assistance and protection to him and his friends during their journey across that country. And it is just to remark that Mr. Woods, whilst following his avocation of a gold-seeker, seems to have lost no opportunity of exercising his ministry as a clergyman, and of preaching, reading prayers, and, upon occasion, conveying spiritual comfort to dying emigrants. And subsequently, from San Francisco, we find him sending up to the diggings, through the Secretary of the American Bible Society, a quantity of bibles and books of sermons. He was for some time at San Francisco, on his way to the southern diggings, whither he proceeded after abandoning those at which he commenced his operations, and was greatly shocked at the vice and immorality he there witnessed.

"Last evening I walked round to about fifty of the gambling tables. A volume would not describe their splendour or their fatal attractions. The halls themselves are vast and magnificent, spread over with tables and implements for gambling. The pictures which decorate them no pen of mine shall describe. The bar-rooms are furnished with the most expensive liquors, no care or attention being spared in the compounding and colouring of them. The music is performed often by professors, and is of the best kind. The tables are sometimes graced, or disgraced, by females, who came at first masked, and who are employed to deal the cards, or who come to play on their own account. 'The bank' consists of a solid pile of silver coin, surmounted by the golden currency of as many countries as there are dupes about the table. Often a sack or two of bullion, which has cost the poor miner months of labour, is placed upon the top of all. A boy of ten years came to one of the tables with a few dollars. His 'run of luck' was surprising and to him bewildering. In ten minutes he was the owner of a pile of silver, with some gold. In one

minute more, he was without a dollar. Instances of great good luck on the part of the players are very rare, but they sometimes occur. A lawyer of this city recently swept three tables in one evening. A young man came from the States in one of the last steamers, and was preparing to go to the mines. He borrowed ten dollars and went to one of the faro-banks. During the night and a part of the next forenoon, he had won 7000 dollars, when he made a resolution never to play more, and returned home in the next steamer. Mr. Davidson, the agent of the Rothschilds, says that some of the professed gamblers send home by him to England the average sum of 17,000 dollars a month."

Here and there in Mr. Woods' volume, we stumble upon a note interesting to the naturalist. On his way from Stockton to the Mariposa diggings he remarks the scarcity of birds in the mountains of California:—

"The large French woodpecker is the most common. It feeds upon the acorn, of which it lays up immense supplies after they have fallen from the trees. It cannot put its stores in the ground, for the bears and squirrels would scratch them up and devour them. So it picks a hole in the bark of the tree, of such a size that the acorn will exactly fit into it; then it flies down, and, taking one in its bill, drives it deep into the hole. There are thousands of these acorns sometimes in a single tree, which have the appearance of so many bullets shot into it."

He tells us also of a singular species of frog, resembling the "horned frog" of Texas, the size of the common frog, but covered with scales, two of which, larger than the others, protrude from its head, and have the appearance of horns. Elk, deer, and antelope he saw in abundance, and had an occasional view of the formidable grisly bear, upon whose savoury steaks he more than once banqueted.

Passing through "Fremont's Camp," a rapidly rising settlement, Mr. Woods proceeded to "Sherlock's Diggings." The two brothers Sherlock, who discovered this place, are said to have taken out thirty thousand dollars from a small square patch of ground. Two man-of-war's men, who tracked them to the source of their wealth, returned on board ship, within a seven weeks' leave, with ninety pounds' weight of gold. No such good fortune attended Mr. Woods, who made three shillings in two days, whilst provisions were six shillings a pound, and nearly twenty pounds sterling were paid for a pair of good boots. Here are some fragments from his diary, at about this time:—

"January 16th.—A friend put into my hands to-day a copy of the 'Boston Journal.' We laid it aside to read in the evening. But how was this to be accomplished? The luxury of a candle we could not afford. We cut and piled up a quantity of dry brush in a corner near the fire, and after supper, whilst one put on the brush and kept up the blaze, the other would read, and as the blaze died away, so would the voice of the reader."

"January 17th.—A very rainy, cold day. As Captain W. is sorely afflicted with an eruption, which covers his whole body, probably the effects of having handled the 'poison oak,' which grows over the whole country, we conclude to remain in and finish the paper. Cutaneous diseases are cured by the use of the soap-plant—*amole*. Captain W. has tried it to-day, and been greatly benefited."

"January 22nd.—Went to some of the tributaries of the Tholum. About noon a severe cold wind sprung up, driving before it a storm of snow. It came cutting and freezing into our faces. I carried a spade in one hand, and a crowbar in the other; and that piece of cold iron penetrated into my soul. I thought I had never before experienced the sensation of pure, unrelieved cold. The ice-



water into which I plunged my hands half an hour since, on my return, felt warm."

Hardships like these, or others equally painful, were encountered by Mr. Woods at all the various diggings to which he in turn shifted his quarters. These he fixed, in the spring of 1850, at a place with the unpromising address of "Savage's Diggings, Rattlesnake Creek," said to be rich in gold, but where he had little success. He then joined a company of twenty-nine persons, who took the name of the Adelphi.

"With seventy pounds burthen on my back, I walked up from Hart's Bar, and accepted an invitation from a miner to use his tent in his absence. Here I slept alone, and at a distance from any other encampment. This noon, coming up to cook my dinner, a large snake crept from under a mat in the tent, and quickly disappeared in a hole near by. With a spade I dug him out, and, after killing him, found that he measured three feet ten inches. I do not know his name, but he has a flat head, looks very brassy, and has a sharp horn at the tail. It answers the description of the horned snake. It is said that, taking the end of the tail in its mouth, it will form a perfect hoop with its body, rolling rapidly over till it reaches the object at which it aims, upon which it inflicts a severe, and sometimes a fatal blow, with the horn in its tail."

The impromptu companies, daily formed in California, were as quickly broken up when their researches failed of success. Mr. Woods belonged to several of them in succession, sometimes as secretary, sometimes as treasurer—always as chaplain. But no very brilliant discoveries rewarded their associated labour. The Hart's Bar Company was the last in which he held a share. Its chief director was a Mississippi boatman, known by the name of "Red," from his habit of putting on a flannel shirt of that colour, when bound on a frolic or anticipating a fight. "Red" was an active and decided fellow, the very man to head a gang of Californian miners; but, even under his superintendence, the profits realized were small—some six hundred dollars per man, after ten weeks painful work in a dear country, where common labour was then worth six dollars a day, and where the extravagant prices of the merest necessities of life left in the miners' pockets but a small portion of their moderate gains. If companies formed in California were seldom successful, those formed in the States were still more rarely so. According to information collected by Mr. Woods at San Francisco and elsewhere, they were usually dissolved by the time they reached the mines, or very soon afterwards—even when they held a charter, and were bound together by heavy liabilities. He traced the history of one company, which, when it left New York, numbered 141 members; nine of these had made various sums, varying from 1000 to 15,000 dollars—but, in all but three cases, by trade and industry, not by mining. Of the remaining 132, one half made a living (good, bad, or indifferent) by mining, gambling, or trading: the other half were dead.

It could hardly be expected that Mr. Woods should take a very cheerful view of a pursuit in which he himself was unfortunate, and of a country where he beheld so vast an amount of misery and suffering, and so much to shock his religious and moral sentiments. These circumstances have probably augmented the gloom of his picture, which should not, however, on that account be rejected as unfaithful. We believe it, on the contrary, to be well worth the consideration of all who may be proposing to risk their persons, or

embark their capital, in any of the numerous gold-gathering schemes which speculators have recently been busied in concocting, and with announcements of which the columns of our newspapers daily teem.

# NOTICES.

*Canadian Crusoes. A Tale of the Rice Lake Plains.* By Catharine Parr Traill. Edited by Agnes Strickland. Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co.

A FORMER work by Mrs. Traill, 'The Backwoods of Canada, by the Wife of an Emigrant Officer,' although from an unknown and new writer, at once attained much popularity, and, published by Mr. C. Knight in his 'Library of Useful Knowledge,' passed through many editions. On this occasion the author is introduced by her talented sister, Miss Strickland, who in a preface explains the purport of the tale of the Canadian Crusoes. To interest and instruct the young people of the colony in the natural objects around them, and especially to show them how to make the best of what is said to be a very frequent event, their being lost in the woods, is the immediate design of the writer. But this is but a small part of the value of the book, especially to young readers in the old country. The account of the scenery and productions of the colony, and of the people and customs, Indian as well as Canadian, is full of interest, and written in a style of gentleness and geniality sure to be attractive to the young. The incidents of the tale are founded on facts, one of the most curious of which is given in the Appendix, relative to a girl who was lost in the woods on the 11th August, 1848, and returned home on the 31st, having been absent twenty-one days, without having ever been at a great distance from home. A story is quoted by Miss Strickland from the narrative of the 'Escape of a Young French Officer from the Depot near Peterborough during the Last War.' He found himself thrice at night within sight of the walls of the prison from which he had fled in the morning, after taking fruitless circular walks of twenty miles. The explanation given of such cases is that "persons who wander without knowing the features and landmarks of a country, instinctively turn their faces to the sun, and for that reason always travel in a circle, infallibly finding themselves at night in the very spot from which they started in the morning." The book is very neatly got up, and is beautifully illustrated by Harvey. The name of the book is another tribute to the ever-increasing fame of Defoe, the spirit of whose work has been more caught by Mrs. Traill than by many of his imitators, and skilfully applied to the peculiarities of a Canadian tale.

*A Voice from Australia; or an Inquiry into the probability of New Holland being connected with the Prophecies relating to New Jerusalem.* By Hannah Villiers Boyd. Sydney: Barr.

THIS volume is a curiosity of literature both from its origin and its contents. The authoress, Mrs. Boyd, is already known by her 'Letters on Education to a Friend in the Bush of Australia,' a book as peculiar as the country to which it refers. The present work was printed at Sydney, with the assistance of native Australian youths, for presentation at the Exhibition last year in Hyde Park. The printing, as also the lithograph printing, the binding, and other externals of the volume, are very creditable to colonial skill and industry. But it is difficult to say anything precise about the strangely varied contents. In the prophetic part the warmly imaginative authoress, who is a Limerick lady, finds in the land of her adoption the fulfilment of Old Testament predictions, such as the "wilderness and solitary place being glad and rejoicing" in the multitude of emigrants, and "the abundance of cedar-wood," literally verified in the use of cedar for fuel in the bush. The plentiful supply of gold, had it been known at the time, would have supplied themes for even more apposite Scripture applications. But besides this speculative part of the work, it abounds in shrewd observations of character, and amusing descriptions of

the country. A spirit of independent thought and generous feeling everywhere pervades the writing, so that we are pleased with the author even when her opinions or arguments carry little conviction. With the political views of the writer in all that affects the relations of Australia with the mother country general sympathy will be felt. On convict transportation, the crown lands, state endowments, and other questions of colonial interest, very decided opinions are held. The frequent quotations from writers both of the Old and New World, referring to Australia, enliven the pages. Were it only for these passages here collected together, the book would be an acceptable acquisition to readers of literary taste desiring information about the colony. The frontispiece portrait of Maximilian, 'King of Bavaria,' at first puzzled us as to its relation to Australia, but it turns out that it is only given as a fine illustration of the truth of phrenology, of the author's enthusiastic belief in which abundant proofs are presented in the volume.

*Links in the Chain of Destiny: a Poem in Various Verse.* By Ronald Campbell.

THE author calls this a poem, but it is a poem neither in prose nor rhyme, but in what is conveniently called 'various verse.' What this means the reader may judge from the following transcript of one of the pages:—

"The rain subsides,—  
And weeping rays peer through  
Dark grim-faced vapours  
That still quench the light  
Within their misty jaws.  
Another peal  
Resounds with rumbling roll  
Among the hills,—  
The awe-struck sheep, in friendly groups  
Creep close together, and await, with silent dread,  
Their fate impending;  
But the slug-horned louts, all unconcerned,  
Hang their lumpish heads,  
Low browsing on the earth,—  
Unrecking of the storm,  
That sweeps its baleful wings  
Along the cowering ridges  
Of Old Beinantoor."

For irregular metres, in all manner of odes and lyrics, there have been periods of frenzy in the annals of literature, from Cowley to Collins, and from Gray to Southey. But this writer, bearing the poetical name of Campbell, beats all former contortionists of verse hollow. Through ten long cantos or sections, in a volume of about two hundred and twenty pages, he pours forth his words, the only apparent art being to make every page as different in its typographical arrangement as possible from its predecessor. Yet what could we expect from a writer who takes as his motto the close of a Spenserian stanza from the 'Faery Queen,' and prints it thus:—

"Full hard it is to read aright  
The Course of heavenly Cause, or understand  
The secret meaning of th' Eternal Might  
That rules men's ways,  
And rules the thoughts  
Of living Wight."

There are some good thoughts and fine descriptions in Mr. Ronald Campbell's poem, which makes it the more to be regretted that he has written in verse not marriageable to the music even of a bagpipe.

*The Half-Yearly Abstract of the Medical Sciences.* Edited by W. H. Ranking, M.D. Churchill.

THIS publication is too well known in the medical world to require our recommendation. In addition to the valuable matter collected from the best sources of information, we have important Reports on the Progress of the Medical Sciences, and of Surgery, by the Editor, and on the Progress of Psychological Medicine, by Dr. Lockhart Robertson, which cannot be consulted without advantage. Although the Reports by the editor are of considerable excellence, they do not admit of any especial notice in our columns. We have been much impressed with the value of Dr. Robertson's Report, as exhibiting in the most marked manner the great advantages derived from the modern system of treating the insane. The following from Dr. Browne's Report of the Crichton Institute for Lunatics is particularly worthy of the attention of



all; showing, as it does, how, by moral management, the aberrations of the human mind may be brought most efficiently under control:—"Amusements of the Insane."—It is still a custom that some form of recreation should be provided once every week. It is of vast importance to vary these experiments as much as possible; but when external resources fail, as they often do, evening parties are assembled in the drawing-room, where music, games, and simple refreshment break in upon the monotony of seclusion, revive conventional restraints, while they suggest those social feelings and sympathies which isolation is calculated to impair or destroy. To give to such meetings a meaning and an object, they are held upon the birthdays of meritorious inmates, or upon national festivals, in both instances associating the present with the past, and personal gratification with the interests, anniversaries, and recollections common to all men. Theatrical representations have been revived with considerable success, and with unequivocal pleasure to the audience. Five patients have joined in these attempts; and as the experiment proceeds, aspirants for histrionic fame are found to multiply. The popularity of an amusement, and the enjoyment afforded, are not sufficient guarantees for its utility; but there are in the direct addresses to the intellect, the attention demanded, the ludicrous thoughts excited, ample illustrations of the modes in which the drama may act, and act beneficially, upon even darkened and diseased minds. Although there is constant access to billiards, chess, cards, bowls is still the popular game. It combines so many of the pleasures of country life with the gentle stimulus of personal dexterity, that the attractions presented to loungers and lookers-on, as well as to the players, explain this partiality; but a prolonged and keenly contested struggle for the championship has enhanced this interest, and appealed to more powerful feelings than the love of exercise or of sport. It has been observed that the players naturally fall into aristocratic, literary, and plebeian groups. When the rank, or peculiarities, or prejudices of an individual oppose obstacles to physical labour, such an amusement is a valuable, although not an adequate substitute."

*The Twin Pupils; or, Education at Home. A Tale addressed to the Young.* By Ann Thomson Gray. Hatchards.

ALTHOUGH called a tale for the young, this is a book which parents and teachers will read with pleasure and instruction. More sound principles and useful practical remarks we have not lately met in any work on the much-treated subject of education. The book is written with liveliness as well as good sense, qualities not always combined in authors who profess to write for the young, or indeed for readers of any age. In one place, the author refers to books bearing on their title-page, "Designed for Young People," which little fulfil the hopes of such adaptation. But the story of the twin pupils, Lisa and Annette, with the other characters introduced in the tale, is well suited for pleasant use and wholesome direction in home female education. The mottoes prefixed to each chapter are taken from Martin Tupper's 'Proverbial Philosophy,' the moral tone, as well as the practical shrewdness of which the author somewhat reflects. The cultivation of the heart is duly considered, as well as the training of the mind, and religious motives and duties receive that prominence, the absence of which is the chief fault in some of our otherwise best educational writers.

*Household Chemistry; or, Rudiments of the Science applied to Every-day Life.* By Albert J. Bernays, F.C.S. Low.

IN this little work a considerable amount of useful information is put together in a familiar form. Under the head of the Breakfast Table, the chemistry of tea, coffee, sugar, milk, bread, butter, and eggs, is given with as much clearness as was possible within the narrow limits to which the author has confined himself. The Dinner Table leads to an explanation of the nutritive elements of our food. To our thinking, Mr. Bernays follows

Liebig a little too closely, and in his tables has repeated a few of his errors. Indeed, the theory of referring the elements of nutrition to the nitrogenous principles only is open to very serious objections. The chemistry of the atmosphere and of fermentation, together with an examination of that practical chemistry which glass, china, and the household metals—so called—afford, make up the other portions of a work which we have no hesitation in recommending, as giving to the young much information on subjects of which they ought not to be ignorant.

*The Magnetoscope; a Philosophical and Experimental Essay on the Magnetoid Characteristics of Elementary Principles, and their relations to the Organization of Man.* By T. Leger, M. D. Baillière.

HAVING noticed the Magnetoscope of Mr. J. O. N. Rutter, and exposed the fallacies of the instrument, we cannot but express our surprise that Dr. Leger should have perpetrated the present absurdity, and that he should venture, by dedicating his work to Sir David Brewster, to imply that that eminent natural philosopher gives support to such doctrines. Every page is full of the most palpable errors; every step in this 'philosophical and experimental essay' is a plunge backward into ignorance and superstition.

#### SUMMARY.

A WORK on a very important subject, *The Calling and Responsibilities of Governesses*, by Amica, contains valuable matter, and is on the whole marked by good feeling and good sense; but the style is most tedious and diffuse, and a large portion of the advice and discussion, such as about the moral and religious qualifications, have no more peculiar relation to governesses than to any other calling or station in life. It is better to pitch the standard of any excellence too high than too low; but we fear that if all such requisites as Amica desiderates are to be sought in female teachers, the circle of her readers would be indeed small. However, she does, or rather says, what she can to bring up to the mark those who are either in the profession, or aspiring to it, and a list of works which it will be desirable to read or use is given in the Appendix. Not the least useful part of the volume to governesses themselves will be the few remarks about agency offices, advertisements, and other matters of practical business.

To the *Traveller's Library* two numbers have been added, the essay, from the 'Edinburgh Review,' on Lord Bacon, by T. B. Macaulay, and a treatise on *Electricity and the Electric Telegraph*, by Dr. George Wilson, of Edinburgh, the author of the memoir of Cavendish.

In *Bohn's Classical Library*, translations of *The Satires of Juvenal and Persius*, with fragments of *Sulpicia and Lucilius*, by the Rev. Lewis Evans, M.A., form a volume which will be acceptable to the student of the classics. Of Juvenal there have been at least six English prose translations, with various imitations and translations in verse, but the present is decidedly the best, as a faithful and spirited prose rendering of the original. Gifford's version is also given entire, and frequent extracts from the versions of Dryden, Hodgson, Badham, and others, are presented in the notes. Gifford's *Life of Juvenal*, and his *Essay on the Roman Satirists*, are prefixed to the poems. Mr. Evans seems well acquainted with German as well as English criticism on his authors, and has ably used his researches in the illustrative notes. The text and notes of Gerlach have been chiefly followed. The fragments of Lucilius have not before appeared in English.

The *Standard Library* of Bohn's Series contains the concluding volumes of *Neander's Church History*, translated by Professor Torrey, of Vermont University, U.S. The work is now complete in this edition, as it was left at the period of Neander's death. It is said that some further progress was made by the author in his history, as he stated in the preface to one of the last parts published, that another volume would bring the narrative

down to the Reformation; and one of the last acts of Neander's life in 1848 was to dictate a sentence of it to his amanuensis. Should such a work appear at Berlin, Professor Torrey promises to continue the translation.

The third and concluding part is published of *Journal of a Summer Tour on the Continent*, by the author of 'Amy Herbert,' and other popular books for the young. We have noticed with praise the previous parts of this journal, which, while professing to be written for the children of a village school, contains information conveyed in a style suited for any readers. This part details the journey from the Simplon through the Tyrol to Genoa.

A series of papers, entitled *Postulates and Data*, has been appearing every Saturday for some time past, printed in a style of unusual display, the subjects of the work as well as the mode of publication not being calculated to attract many readers. Each part contains several formal 'Essays' on various topics, those for last Saturday, August 7th, being on 'Finance and Taxation,' 'The Native Irish Episcopate,' 'The Seventy Weeks of Daniel,' 'The Government and Lighthouse Boards.' All of these are doubtless very important subjects, and they are on the whole ably handled; but in these days of daily newspapers and cheap publications, few readers will seek their information in essays by an anonymous writer, presented in a form so unusual.

In the series of Readable Books, the fourth volume contains *Nile Notes of a Howadji, or, the American in Egypt*, by Mr. G. W. Curtis. Another cheap London edition of this work, also with illustrations, proves the popularity of Mr. Curtis as one of the cleverest American writers of the day.

The beautiful *Specimens of Tile Pavements*, Part III., by Mr. Henry Shaw, F.S.A., author of various works of decorative architecture, contain copies of pieces from Jervaulx Abbey, Yorkshire, the Chapter House, Westminster, Great Bedwyn Church, Wilts, and from Gloucester Cathedral, the dates ranging from the thirteenth century down to A.D. 1455.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Brettingham's Devotions for the Hours, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Challice's (Mrs.) Laurel and the Palm, 12mo, cloth, 6s.  
Conquerors of the New World, Vol. 2, 12mo, cloth, 7s.  
Easy Lessons on the Terrestrial Globe, 12mo, cloth, 2s.  
Florilegium Poeticum, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Gisborne's (J.) Memoir, post 8vo, cloth, 5s.  
Laurie's Interest Tables, 8vo, cloth, £1 1s.  
McFarlane's Japan, 8vo, cloth.  
McGillivray's Birds, Vol. 4 and 5, 8vo, cloth, £1 16s.  
Moore's (H.) Solicitors' Book of Practical Forms, 7s. 6d.  
——— Instructions for Preparing Abstracts of Title, 6s.  
——— Country Attorney's Pocket Remembrancer, 7s.  
Perscher's First Lessons in Latin, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
Quin's Historical Atlas, Imp. 4to, half bound, £3 10s.  
Randall's Twelve Lectures on Joseph, foolscap 8vo, 3s.  
Report of Townley and Olyoake's Discussion, cloth, 2s.  
Rigaud's (Rev. S. J.) Sermons on Lord's Prayer, 4s. 6d.  
Rowe on Nervous Diseases, 8vo, boards, 5s. 6d.  
Sixty Amusing Songs, fine paper, 6s.  
Suckling's (Rev. A.) Memoir and Sermons, cloth, 7s.  
Sunlight in the Clouds, and other Tales, 18mo, cloth, 2s.  
Stories and Catechisms in Illustration of the Collects, 4s.  
Strange's (T. L.) Light of Prophecy, 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
——— Observations on Elliott's Horæ, 8vo, 3s.  
Sylvan's Pictorial Handbook to the English Lakes, 3s. 6d.  
Wetherell's (E.) Wide Wide World, 8vo, cloth, 12s.  
Walcott's William of Wykeham and his Colleges, 8vo, 16s.  
——— Royal 8vo, cloth, £1 5s.  
Williams's (Dr. J. C.) Diseases of the Heart, 8vo, cloth, 6s.

#### THE CALOTYPE PATENT RIGHT.

IN the morning papers of yesterday appeared two letters, being a correspondence between the Presidents of the Royal Society and Royal Academy and Mr. H. Fox Talbot, which will create considerable interest among the lovers of the art of photography. Observing the rapid advance which, owing to competition, the art of obtaining sun-pictures upon paper is making in France, the representatives of art and science in this country requested the wealthy inventor and patentee to make such alterations in the exercise of his right as may obviate the difficulties which appear to hinder the progress of the art in England. Mr.



Talbot, feeling himself unable to pursue the different applications that have opened out in this beautiful art, has generously responded to the request by surrendering his patent, and offering it as a free present to the public, in all its branches excepting that of taking calotype portraits for sale.

We feel an especial interest in the matter, as it was in our columns that Mr. Fox Talbot first communicated to the public the discovery of the calotype process (see L. G. for 1841, p. 108 and 139) and all the peculiarities of this really beautiful invention. The process was made the subject of a patent in 1841, and on the 10th of June in that year a paper was read before the Royal Society, giving an exact description of the manipulatory processes. This paper was not published, as a law of the Society excludes the publication of all matters which are the subjects of patents. In 1842, Mr. Talbot obtained a second patent for sundry improvements in the calotype, which had reference more particularly to the fixing of the picture. More recently another patent was obtained by Mr. Talbot for photographic pictures on porcelain tablets, and for sundry improvements by Mr. Malone in the use of albumen on paper and glass; and lastly, the same gentleman patented his so-called "Instantaneous process," of which he published an account last year. There have been sundry very unpleasant disputes as to the claims of the patentee, but these are now happily ended by the announcement of the resignation of the patent right.

"Photographic portraits for sale" are still reserved by the patentee. This, we understand, has arisen from the difficulty of settling the amount of compensation which should be given to those holding licences from Mr. Talbot for the practice of the art. It is to be regretted that it was necessary to make the reservation. We believe it to have been contrary to Mr. F. Talbot's wishes, since it may lead to unpleasant discussions, and the collision process, being free from all patent restrictions, must very quickly supersede all processes on paper for the purposes of portraiture.

Photography, however, in its widest, most beautiful, and useful varieties, is relieved from its shackles. We have no doubt but that fresh energy will be given to our photographic artists, and that our books of travels will shortly be illustrated with direct transcripts from nature.

#### LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA, AND THE LOGANIAN LIBRARY.

(From the American 'Literary Gazette'.)

*The Philadelphia Library.*—The foundation of the Library Company of Philadelphia was laid in 1731, when but few resources for literary research were accessible in America. A small number of gentlemen, among whom was the celebrated Benjamin Franklin, having subscribed the sum of one hundred pounds, a collection was commenced, the volumes being allowed to be carried to the dwellings of the members of the Company for perusal during their hours of leisure. The list of books accompanying the first remittance was made out, at the request of the Directors, by the Hon. James Logan, "a gentleman of universal learning, and the best judge of books in these parts."

The books received from London were taken "to Robert Grace's chamber, at his house in Jones's Alley," and there placed on the shelves, a catalogue made out, and Dr. Franklin undertook to print the blank promissory notes for the Librarian to fill up and get subscribed by those to whom he lent books. Benjamin Franklin was the second Librarian; among those who succeeded him are included Francis Hopkinson, the author, and Zachariah Poulson, the well-known publisher of Poulson's Daily Advertiser. In 1740, the books were removed to the "upper room of the westernmost office of the State House," the use of which had been lately granted to the company by the Assembly. In 1773, the second floor of Carpenter's Hall was rented, and the books removed thither. The British army had possession of Philadelphia, from Sept. 26th, 1777, to June 18th, 1778; but it does not appear that the Company sustained any loss

from those who composed it. The officers, without exception, left deposits and paid hire for the books borrowed by them. In 1777, the library room was occupied by the sick soldiers. In 1790, the books were removed to the present building, in Fifth-street, below Chestnut.

The number of volumes now in the Library is 51,000, exclusive of 10,000 in the Loganian Library attached, of which more below. They embrace all subjects, the object kept in view being to have both a good circulating library of general literature, and a collection of the standard books of reference in every department. Less attention is paid to Medicine, Natural History, and Law, than to History, &c., inasmuch as there are special collections of the former in the Pennsylvania Hospital, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and the Law Library. In the department of Archaeology, the Philadelphia and Loganian Libraries are particularly rich, embracing the magnificent folio works of Denon (Napoleon), Rosellini, and Lepsius on Egypt; those of Botta and Layard on Nineveh; and Lord Kingsborough and Lenoir on the Antiquities of Mexico, together with a host of less costly books of a similar kind. For large books of plates, handsome reading-stands are provided, on which the leaves can be turned without injury to the volumes.

There is a valuable collection of old newspapers in this Institution, including a complete set of Bradford's Weekly Mercury from 1719, and Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette from 1728. These files are often referred to. In the main room may be seen a curious old clock, said to have belonged to Oliver Cromwell, and without doubt nearly 200 years old. Also a colossal bust of Minerva, in terra cotta bronze, which formerly stood behind the Speaker's chair in the Continental Congress. When the U. S. Government removed to Washington, this was left behind and presented to the Library.

The building is somewhat antique in its style of architecture. A niche immediately over the front entrance is occupied by a statue of Franklin, executed in Italy, by Francis Lazzarini, being the first specimen of sculpture of so large a size ever imported to this country. The head is from the bust of Houdon, and is an excellent likeness. The figure is arrayed in the Roman toga—the right arm resting on a pile of books, the right hand holding an inverted sceptre, and the left a scroll.

It is much to be desired that some public-spirited individual, emulating the liberality of an Astor and a Gore, should endow these venerable and useful Institutions with funds sufficient to erect a fire-proof building. The present structure, now 60 years old, is liable at any time to be consumed by fire, together with its precious contents, which cannot be replaced.

The Library is open every day, except Sunday, from 10 o'clock until sundown. Persons not members of the Company are allowed to take books out by depositing double their value, and paying by the week, (12½ cents a week.) Strangers are permitted (by courtesy) to consult books of reference in its building; books for perusal are expected to be taken home on hire.

Dr. Franklin remarks that "this was the mother of all the North American Subscription Libraries now so numerous."

*The Loganian Library.*—This collection, numbering 10,000 volumes of rare and valuable works, principally in the learned and foreign languages, owes its origin to the Honourable James Logan, the confidential friend and counsellor of William Penn, and, for some time, President of the Council of the Province of Pennsylvania. Its foundation consists of a portion of his own private library, which, having collected at considerable expense, he was anxious should descend to posterity, and continue usefully to extend to others the means of prosecuting those pursuits he had himself so successfully cultivated. With this view he erected a suitable building in Sixth-street, near Walnut, for the reception of a library; and, by deed, vested it (with the books and certain rents, for the purpose of increasing their number and paying a librarian) in trustees, for the use of the public for ever. This deed he afterwards cancelled, and prepared, but did

not live to execute, another, in which some alteration was made in the funds and regulations. After his death, his children, William and James Logan, John Smith and Hannah his wife (she being the surviving daughter), with commendable liberality, carried into effect the intentions of Mr. Logan.

The Loganian Library is attached to the Philadelphia, and by the rules of the founder is open to the public without charge, visitors being permitted either to read the books in the room or to take them home, leaving, in the latter case, a deposit in money to secure their return. The antiquity and learned character of the books, however, prevent this privilege being available to the general reader. As a library of reference, however, it is invaluable. In early printed books, the classics, theology, French literature previous to the nineteenth century, and Spanish works on America, it is rich and curious. It also embraces a valuable collection of books on natural history, late the library of Zaccheus Collins, Esq. Included in the valuable bequest of William Mackenzie is a copy of the Golden Legend, printed by Caxton, 1483; of this early specimen of English printing only five perfect copies are known to exist in the world. In continental printed works, the earliest with a date is 1470, of which year there are several, the typography of which would be creditable at the present day.

Among the manuscripts is a complete copy of the Bible, on parchment, attributed to the eleventh century; also, in perfect preservation, an illuminated Psalter, of exquisite beauty, on vellum; it is without date, but is supposed, from its appearance, to be a specimen of Italian art, and executed about the beginning of the fifteenth century.

In 1831, about 200 volumes were destroyed by fire, besides an original bust of William Penn and a portrait of James Logan. Also a curious clock, made by a French artist, so constructed as to ring an alarm each day at sunset. This clock was the only one of the kind in the world. It has since been repaired, and now does duty daily in warning visitors of the time to close the library.

#### TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

WITH the view of attracting the archaeologists to the forthcoming scientific meeting of the British Association at Belfast, a committee has been formed for the purpose of collecting an exhibition of objects of antiquity. The county of Ulster is said to be peculiarly rich in this respect, and a letter has been circulated to invite contributions. "There are few noblemen and gentlemen," says the invitation, "of standing in the north of Ireland, who do not possess some curious antique objects, more or less illustrative of periods in Irish history. Some have preserved remarkable articles of gold, silver, or bronze, which have been found from time to time on their properties. Others have retained in their families interesting relics of former days, connected with noted events or remarkable characters. Some can show the undoubted memorial of an old Irish chieftain or ecclesiastic, a Norman knight, or a Cromwellian soldier. In no country, perhaps, of the same extent, have so many distinct races of men their representatives as in Ireland; and whether a family be of Danish, Saxon, French, or Scottish descent, some individuals of it have, no doubt, preserved memorials of their forefathers who first settled in the country. The arrangements for the reception of objects are as follows:—

"The Committee will give a regular receipt for all objects intrusted to their care, and guarantee their safe return. The whole will be deposited in an apartment in Belfast appropriated to the purpose; and, excepting the large objects, will be kept in glass cases properly secured. Persons will be employed expressly by the Committee to attend in the rooms at all times, and to take the minutest care of the articles. The Committee are prepared to defray all expense of carriage to and fro, should this be necessary. Free admission to the collection will, of course, be given to all gentlemen lending specimens for the Exhibition; other admissions to be by Ticket, regulated in such a manner as may seem most judicious to the Committee. The objects will be required for a period not exceeding one month; and in order to allow time for arranging them, the latest day for receiving any articles is fixed to be Saturday, the 29th August.



"Classes of objects which (among others) would be desirable for the Exhibition:—1. Weapons of the Celtic, Norman, and early English periods. 2. Armour and Dress. 3. Ornaments of Gold, Silver, or Bronze. 4. Ancient Seals and Impressions of Seals. 5. Domestic Utensils, whether of Wood, Stone, or Metal. 6. Furniture. 7. Musical Instruments. 8. Old Maps of Localities in Ireland. 9. Pictures and Plans of Ancient Buildings in Ireland. 10. Drawings of Antiques. 11. Portraits of Remarkable Individuals connected with Irish History. 12. Sepulchral Antiquities. 13. Rare Books Relating to Ireland. 14. Old Deeds and Manuscripts. 15. Coins found in Ireland. 16. Ecclesiastical Antiquities."

We cannot but add our cordial wishes that the Irish nobility and gentry will aid in this exhibition of local antiquities, and that the archaeologists, physicists, chemists, and naturalists of all nations, will have a prosperous and agreeable meeting.

While on the subject of the British Association, we may call the attention of our readers to an experiment that is to be performed under its auspices on Tuesday at Vauxhall. Many important problems remain for solution in the comparatively modern science of meteorology. None of these are of more importance than the different currents of air at various elevations above the earth's surface, and the also constantly varying quantity of vapour, and consequent formation of clouds, in different zones. The electrical state of the air at great altitudes is a subject requiring full investigation. With a view of aiding in the solution of some of these problems, the Kew Committee of the British Association have determined on an aeronautic expedition, and have issued a circular note to meteorological observers on the subject. By aiding in the manner indicated by the chairman (see Advertisement) many valuable deductions may be made.

At the meeting of the Highland and Agricultural Society last week at Perth, the event which excited most general interest was the trial of the comparative merits of the reaping machine, about which, in England, there has been so much dispute. Hitherto the competition has been between two American machines, M'Cormick's, which gained the prize at the Great Exhibition, and Hussey's, as improved in this country by Garrett. The contest at Perth was between Hussey's and a machine invented twenty-five years ago by the Rev. Mr. Bell, of the parish of Carmylie. Mr. Bell's machine has been in use on Mr. Bell's farm of Inchmichael, in the Carse of Gowrie, for the last fifteen years. The judges unanimously decided in favour of Bell's machine, as superior in economy of time, the grain cleanest cut, less shaken, laid with greatest regularity, less liable to interruption from being choked with grass, requiring less power to cover the same breadth, requiring no side room before commencing operations, and laying the grain down on either side without manual labour, so as to save two men in preparing for the gatherers. The cost of Bell's is 35*l.*, of Hussey's, only 18*l.*, but calculations showed that the former would prove cheapest for work. Among the judges were some of the first farmers of the north, and also the Duke of Athol, and Mr. Stephens, author of 'The Book of the Farm.' Bell's machine is not drawn as the others, but the cutting apparatus goes before the horses, and has flying arms in front, which lay the corn down to be cut on either side. A deputation from the Irish Royal Agricultural Improvement Society was present, and made arrangements for a trial of Bell's machine at their next show in Ireland. For oats and barley, and for rough ground, or wheat at all laid, there was no question as to the superiority of the Scotch machine, Hussey's coming into competition only in cutting straight wheat on perfectly smooth land.

We are informed by a resident in the neighbourhood, that about 30,000 oak trees of different ages have been cut this season in Epping Forest and these parts. Instead of their being cut during the winter, they were all left till late in the spring, in order that the full profit might be taken from the sale of the bark. It is well known that wood cut at a time when the vessels are distended with sap is comparatively worthless for purposes where durability is required. A great proportion of this wood will find its way into the Government yards, and thus the Admiralty abuses, which Sir Charles Napier and others so justly expose when too late,

are perpetuated. For the sake of a slight temporary increase of income from the sale of bark, the country will be made to suffer incalculable loss from the premature breaking up of ships, the dry rot of which might have been prevented by attention to the right time of cutting. But the future losses of the Admiralty are no concern to the Woods and Forests' department, who are immediate gainers by the blunder.

Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Downman, one of the oldest veterans in the service, who took part in some events of historic interest, died, in his eightieth year, on Tuesday, at Woolwich, of which garrison he was commandant. He obtained his commission in the Royal Artillery in 1793, and his first service was under Sir W. Congreve, in the army commanded by the Duke of York. He was taken prisoner after the retreat from Dunkirk, and was detained in France till the summer of 1795. His next service was in St. Domingo, and other parts of the West Indies. In 1808, having the command of a troop of horse artillery, he served under the Marquis of Anglesey in the Peninsula, and was in the rear of Sir John Moore's army in the retreat to Corunna. In most of the subsequent scenes of the Peninsular war he took part. Sir Thomas Downman succeeded Lord Bloomfield in 1846 as commandant at Woolwich, and commandant of the Royal Horse Artillery. He was only a few months since made a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath, having been previously a Companion of the order, and Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order. Provincial papers recorded last week the death of an old pensioner who had seen service in more historic times, having fought at the battle of Bunker's Hill. There are still living in America several of Washington's body-guard in the War of Independence.

The story of the escape of the Scottish king from the fatal field of Flodden has lately been revived, as has also the tradition cited by Grose in his 'Antiquities of Scotland,' of the finding the skeleton of the unhappy monarch wrapped in an ox-hide, and bound with an iron chain, in the moat of Home Castle. That such a skeleton thus enveloped was discovered is doubtless perfectly true, but we are not warranted in assuming that the remains were those of the king. The wearing of a chain round the body was a common mode of penance and mortification at an earlier period, and the interment in question, if really authenticated, belongs in all probability to a more remote age. When the French antiquary, Lenoir, at the command of the National Convention in 1793, plundered the tombs of royal and noble personages interred in the Abbey of St. Denis, near Paris, the body of Louis VIII., son of Saint Louis, was found wrapped in leather and deposited in a stone coffin. Lenoir remarks that it was the only interment of the kind discovered in the abbey.

Among the English books announced for reprint in America, is 'The Men of the Time in 1852.' We shall be curious to find what additions of American notables are made to the volume, and whether the names of any of the illustrious little men celebrated in the English edition will be omitted by the Transatlantic editor. Newman's 'Regal Rome,' Michaud's 'History of the Crusades,' translated by W. Robson, Kendrick's 'Egypt under the Pharaohs,' Bonomi's 'Nineveh and its Palaces,' Oliphant's 'Journey to Katmandu and Nepal,' and 'The Lectures at the Society of Arts on the Great Exhibition,' are among the reprints announced or which have most recently appeared. The Achilli and Newman Trial is also a prize for the American publishers.

The distribution of the prizes for the general concours of the Lycées and Colleges of Paris and Versailles took place on Thursday, in the great hall of the Sorbonne. The usual Latin oration was delivered by M. Auguste Nisard, Professor of Rhetoric at the Lycée Bonaparte. In the first part of the discourse, the speaker defended classical studies from the attacks of the Jesuits of the *Ver Rongeur* party, amidst the great applause of the audience. The book called '*Ver Rongeur*,' written

by a French abbé against the study of the heathen classics, has caused much excitement in France, and has added fresh fuel to the flames of educational controversy, which have been raging so strongly since the return of the Jesuits to power, under the despotism of Louis Napoleon. A translation of the work into English has just appeared, of which we will hereafter give some notice. M. Fortoul, the Minister of Public Instruction, spoke after M. Nisard, and then the prizes were distributed.

A veto has been put by the French Government on the proposed competition for a prize by the French Academy for the best essay on English eloquence. M. de Montalembert was the mover of the proposition, and through him the application to Government was made, as is usual in such cases. The sanction of the state is very seldom refused to propositions of the Academy, but it is feared in this instance that the description of English parliamentary freedom of debate would be too severe and too obvious a satire on that of France.

The Royal Academy of History at Madrid is about to publish a collection of the principal laws, statutes, and municipal privileges of the provinces and great towns of Spain. A commission of twenty historians, lawyers, and others, have been appointed to superintend the publication. The expense will be very considerable, but it will be well laid out, as the work will be of great historical importance.

The Association lately formed for the promotion of cheap colonial and international postage, held a meeting on the 26th ultimo, at the house of the Society of Arts, Sir J. Burgoyne in the chair, which we trust will aid in furthering this desirable object. The restrictions which the high rate of postage set upon foreign correspondence is extremely vexatious, especially at this season of the year. Don Manuel de Ysasi, who has accepted the office of Honorary Secretary, is instructed to request the co-operation of all persons corresponding with our Colonies, America, the Continent, and other foreign countries, especially 'The Society of Merchants Trading to the Continent,' and the Members of the Commissions appointed in foreign Countries for the Exhibition of 1851.

The death of Thomas Moore left a vacancy in the Order of Civil Merit of Prussia; and the members, in accordance with the statutes, are about to hold a chapter to elect a new foreign member. The choice will be submitted to the sanction of the King. The number of this Order is very limited, but amongst the present members are Sir David Brewster, Professor Owen, Sir W. Herschel, and Robert Brown.

The new planet discovered by Mr. Hind on the 24th June, has been named by the Astronomer Royal 'Melpomene.' It is one of the many asteroids between Mars and Jupiter. The period of revolution is 1269 days, which places it between the asteroids Flora and Victoria.

We regret to learn that Professor James D. Forbes, of the University of Edinburgh, is still in such a state of health as to require his absence from professorial duties for another year. The Town Council, as patrons, have granted this leave of absence. The class of Natural Philosophy is to be conducted, as last winter, by Professors Kelland and Syme.

Mr. Robert Bryson, F.R.S.E., an eminent mechanician, and one of the principal watch and chronometer makers in Scotland, died this week at the age of 74. His son, Mr. Robert Bryson, is one of the presidents of the Royal Physical Society, and has distinguished himself among the scientific men of Scotland by his microscopic researches on the structure of fossils.

Clot Bey, a French physician of Cairo, converted to the Mussulman religion, has resolved to present his valuable collection of Egyptian antiquities, consisting of bronzes, sculptured wood, figures of divinities, mummies, &c., to the Louvre at Paris. Some of these things date from the oldest Egyptian dynasties.

A society has been formed at Dresden, under the presidency of H.R.H. Prince John, for seeking out German antiquities, and preserving historical monuments.



## PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

**R. S. OF LITERATURE.**—July 21st.—Mr. George Scharf, Jun., read a paper on the ancient portraits of Menander and Demosthenes. Mr. Scharf observed, that after long familiarity with the thoughts and actions of a great man, one naturally forms some idea of his personal appearance, rarely, however, finding those preconceived notions realized. Now, in the case of Menander, he has already been long known to us by his excellent comedies, many of which were extant in the twelfth century, but are now lost; but it is only lately that a portrait in marble has been discovered, which there is fair reason to suppose may be attributed to him. During the Pontificate of Sixtus V., A.D. 1585—1590, two statues were found on the Viminal Hill, at a spot formerly occupied by the baths of Olympias, the wife of Constantius. These statues, after having been removed to the Villa Montalto, were purchased by Mr. Jenkins, and placed in the Vatican, where they are at present. Though manifestly Greek in the details of their workmanship, they were called Sylla and Marius; till Gronovius claimed for one of them the name of Posidippus, which is found in Greek letters on its pedestal, and considered it to be the portrait of a comic poet of that name who lived B.C. 286. The other, which had no inscription, remained unnamed till Visconti, on no sufficient ground, gave to it the name of Menander. A more genuine portrait was subsequently discovered on a marble medallion, and bearing the name ΜΕΝΑΝΔΡΟΣ. It has little or no resemblance to the seated figure. At Marbury Hall, Cheshire, the seat of Mr. Smith Barry, Mr. Scharf states that he found a medallion portrait of Menander with the name ΜΕΝΑΝΔΡΟΣ, in many respects closely resembling that published by Visconti, and which has, curiously enough, since disappeared. There is so great a similarity between the one Mr. Scharf saw at Marbury and that which Visconti had drawn, but subsequently lost sight of, that Mr. Scharf believes them to be identical. With regard to Demosthenes, the case is quite different. Of all ancient portraits those of that orator appear to be the most numerous, and, in all cases, the likeness is unmistakable. But though the likeness between them all is so striking that it could not be overlooked, without the assistance of a bronze bust with the name inscribed in silver letters, which was found at Herculaneum, there is little chance that the proper name would have been given to the rest. Another bust has also been found with the name written on the field in a kind of open tablet. Busts of Demosthenes are too numerous to be specified. There exist also some noble life-size statues of him; one in the Louvre, and formerly in the Vatican, which is seated; one at Rome, standing perfectly erect; and the finest of all, a full-length figure, the size of life, which is preserved at Knowle Park in Kent, the seat of Lord Amherst. It exactly resembles the figure in the Vatican: its material is a fine highly crystallized marble. The surface is in the genuine condition in which it was found. It was discovered in Campania, and brought to England by the Marquis of Dorset. Mr. Scharf illustrated his paper by some excellent designs.

**ENTOMOLOGICAL.**—August 2nd.—J. O. Westwood, Esq., President, in the chair. Among the donations, the President announced the valuable and extensive entomological library, collection of insects, and cabinet of the late Dr. W. A. Bromfield, of Ryde, presented to the Society by his sister, to whom a special vote of thanks was passed. Mr. Hasselden was elected a subscriber to the Society. Mr. S. Stevens exhibited *Graphiphora ditrapezium*, bred from a larva found at Leith Hill, Surrey. The President exhibited two curious instances of malformation in the common hive bee. Mr. F. Smith exhibited specimens of *Ecophora lactella*, bred from corks of wine bottles, and also from the nest of the bee *Bombus Ragellus*, where the larvae fed on the wax of the combs. He also exhibited a bee new to Britain, *Bombus nivalis*, Zett., taken in Shetland by Mr. John White; and a series of *Pompilus variegatus*, taken by himself last month

near Wakefield, all but one being males. Mr. F. Grant exhibited specimens of *Hypera tigrina*, bred from wild carrot, *Coleophora Onosmella*, found in *Echium vulgare*, and *Sciaphila Perterana*, reared from larvae found in heads of groundsel, all from the neighbourhood of Dover. Mr. Wing exhibited the side of a French wine-case, perforated by some insect larva, probably of *Cossus*. Mr. Waring exhibited specimens of some rarities, including *Crambus uliginosellus*, *Penthina Capraeana*, bred from sallow, and *Tortrix Viburnana*. The President read 'Descriptions of three new species of *Pausus* in the collection of Herr Dohrn, President of the Entomological Society of Stettin.' Mr. F. Smith read 'Notes on the Development of *Osmia parietina* and other British insects.' The Secretary read the conclusion of Mr. W. Varney's paper 'On the Habits of Various Insects.'

## FINE ARTS.

*Portrait of W. C. Macready, Esq. in the Character of 'Werner.'* Painted by D. Maclise, Esq., R.A.; Engraved by W. C. Sharpe. Hogarth.

THIS fine work, the appearance of which we observe with much satisfaction, is in the highest style of line engraving, in every way worthy of the subject and the artists. Some tribute no less important than this to the fame of the great tragedian was required at the hand of a sister art, which, whilst by accurate portraiture it distinguishes the person, displays him at the same time in the service of that particular science of the Muses which he dignified and adorned. The subtlety of Mr. Maclise's taste is particularly shown in the subject of the picture, which is strictly a portrait, for the face of *Werner's* companion is hidden by her hand, and therefore does not divide the attention of the spectator, and yet is a perfect rendering of the scene in the play, and of the sentiment contained in the well-known lines,—

"Who would read in this form  
The high soul of the son of a long line?  
Who, in this garb the heir of princely lands?  
Who, in this sunken, sickly eye, the pride  
Of rank and ancestry?"

Nor has the composition been loaded with a number of unnecessary figures, as is too often the case in representations of stage scenes. The face of the figure, the likeness of which will be recognised immediately, is full front, and in half shade, the light portion being contrasted against a mass of dark behind, and the dark portion against a similar column of light, by means of a simple arrangement, which, together with some strong reflected light, and the shadow thrown on the adjoining wall, serves to bring the head prominently out, and makes every portion of the features distinctly traceable. The figure, though tall, is also a portrait, even to the attitude of the hands; indeed the individuality of the character is unmistakable. The engraving has been executed with all the skill, in dealing with varieties of texture, and gradations of light and dark, which have advanced the art to such a height of perfection in late years, rivalling in versatility and abundant resources the great artists of old, and nearly approaching them in that perfect mastery over, and therefore full reliance on, the burine alone, which makes their works of such high value at the present day. The pattern of the heavy curtain is one of the great sources of richness of effect, and it hangs in full, heavy, and beautiful folds, with perhaps the drawback of a somewhat metallic lustre in the upper part. The faces and hands are finished in the usual style of treatment in recent works of line engraving, and are delicate and distinctive. The sound and sterling merits of both composition and engraving are not diminished by the circumstance of a subdued tone appropriate to the subject and worthy of its dignity reigning throughout, and making the work acceptable to the general eye, whilst it embraces excellences of a high artistic order.

The French government has already announced the Exhibition of the Works of Living Artists for next year. It is to commence on the 15th March,

and is to be held at the Palais Royal. The Exhibition at St. Petersburg is to be opened in September next. In both foreigners will be allowed to exhibit.

Tony Johannot, whose death was announced last week, was the author of several esteemed paintings, but was chiefly known to the public for his illustrations of *Gil Blas*, *Don Quixote*, *Paul and Virginia*, the *Imitation of Jesus Christ*, and of the works of George Sand and C. Nodier.

## MUSIC.

AT HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE the season is to close this evening with *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and the ballet of *Zelie*. The admission being at play-house prices, a crowded audience will be secured for the occasion, as there was last evening at the LYCEUM, where the *artistes* of Her Majesty's Theatre performed for the benefit of Mr. Harris, the stage manager. These extra performances of Madame de la Grange, Signor Lablache, and their companions, with the permission of Mr. Lumley, have gratified large audiences, composed partly of a different class from the regular attenders of the opera, and popularity has been increased without much diminution of dignity, although we observed some of the *artistes* not receiving well the heartiness of the encores.

On Tuesday evening at the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, Signor Negrini made his *début* in England as *Pollio* in *Norma*. To take such a part in the room of Tamberlik was a severe trial for any singer, and but for this unavoidable contrast, the success of Negrini might have been more marked. As it was, the judgment of the audience was favourable, and on the whole justly. His voice is not a clear tenor, but rather a baritone, or very low tenor. Throughout his part he gave proof of intelligent study, as well as of natural power, and the chief fault was, his being occasionally too elaborate and too emphatic. His previous continental reputation must have been somewhat exaggerated, as he is not likely to be rated so high on the roll of performers in London. As *Norma*, Madame Grisi surpassed her usual efforts. She was twice recalled with acclamation, and Signor Negrini also received the same mark of the satisfaction of the audience.

At VAUXHALL GARDENS on Tuesday evening, in addition to the usual entertainments, there was what was called "a grand musical festival," being a concert of Italian music by the chief *artistes* of Her Majesty's Theatre. The singers were Mesdames Charton, La Grange, Mdle. Ida Bertrand, Signori Calzolari, Gardoni, Ferlotti, De Bassini, and Lablache. The programme consisted of a selection of some of the finest and most popular passages from well-known operas. The pieces were received with vociferous applause, and the encores were more frequent than was agreeable to some of the singers. The concert passed off with more complete success than might have been anticipated from such performances with a Vauxhall audience. Signor Licolzi, as accompanist, played with taste, and also executed a concerto with much ability. A ballet followed the concert, the chief dancers being Mdles. Pieron and Julien, and M. Vaudris. The *al fresco* music in the gardens, both instrumental and vocal, is this season unusually good, and has assisted to sustain Vauxhall in favour as a place of popular amusement. It is very rarely indeed that court singers are heard on the Transverine side of the river. About a quarter of a century ago there was a concert at Vauxhall, at which a distinguished troupe of singers appeared, including Madame Malibran. Only once since has anything similar occurred. The success of the present experiment may induce its occasional repetition. We believe the concert was partly for the benefit of a brother *artiste*, M. Crippa.

M. Jullien's promised opera of *Pietro il Grande*, after being postponed from Thursday till Saturday, is again put off till next Tuesday, when it is positively to appear. We are glad to learn that the delay has only arisen from desire for fuller rehearsal. M. Jullien's bringing forward a new



opera at this period of the season is not explained. If successful, the directors will probably make something of it during the summer; and on the other hand, a failure now will be more readily forgotten. We await with some interest the result of the experiment. On Thursday evening, instead of *Pietro il Grande*, Meyerbeer's *Prophète* was produced. This evening *Les Huguenots* will be performed.

The Académie des Beaux Arts last Saturday adjudged the first prize of the concours for musical composition to M. Leonce Cohen, pupil of M. Leborne, and the second to M. Poise, pupil of Adam and Zimmerman. The numerous and frequent prizes publicly bestowed after competition in the schools of Paris, both for musical composition and excellence in performance, greatly sustain and encourage the art, and are worthy of imitation in some form in this country.

Meyerbeer is said by a Belgian journal to be composing an oratorio for the approaching festival at Birmingham.

#### THE DRAMA.

THE Adelphi company have opened their annual campaign at the HAYMARKET with a new drama, which bids fair to attract a numerous audience from among those who dote upon domestic stories of intense interest. *The Writing on the Wall* is a neatly constructed three-act tale of love and retribution, resulting from a deed of blood, which we are happy to say is all comfortably over before the curtain rises. A murder has been committed within the time-honoured walls of an ancient mansion in Cornwall, and the victim has managed, before drawing his last breath, to inscribe the name of his murderer in letters of blood upon the paneled wall. No phosphorescent paint is had recourse to, to harrow up the feelings of the audience, the inscription is not made visible, and it is therefore only to be imagined. The villain has an accomplice, and as one gets rich, while the other remains poor, they, of course, in the fulness of time, split, from the latter becoming suddenly virtuous. We shall not, however, divulge the plot, which, if it be somewhat intricate, is admirably worked out. The sanguinary hero of the play is performed with vigour and remorseful earnestness by Mr. S. Emery, and he is capably supported by Mr. Paul Bedford, in the part of a good-tempered professor of thimble-rig. His humour is natural and to the point, and elicited much genuine applause. We wish we could say as much of Mr. Wright, whose appearance in the play is unnatural, and not particularly witty. It is much to be regretted that this actor has not more confidence in his own inimitable powers. He is too dependent on grotesqueness of dress and other absurdities. To secure a laugh in the present play, on his first appearance, he comes in bespattered from head to foot with mud, and is attired in a coat so exquisitely torn into shreds, that it would excite amusement on a tailor's dummy. When this source of merriment is exhausted, Mr. Wright has recourse to a live Newfoundland dog, which runs about the stage after him like the hero of Montargis. Then he lets some live pigs loose, and drives one into the orchestra. The audience are in ecstasies, and the applause is generously divided between Mr. Wright and the pigs. Another fault we have to find with Mr. Wright is his continual habit of swearing, not with big oaths, but with apparently harmless and certainly meaningless little ones, which cannot be in the dialogue of the author, and are extremely offensive. We beg of him to read and digest a homily on habitual swearing, quoted in our review last week from Mr. Casey's 'Two Years on the Farm of Uncle Sam.' The ladies of the piece are efficiently performed by Mrs. Leigh Murray, Miss Woolgar, and Miss Chaplin.

At the OLYMPIC, a new after-piece was brought out on Wednesday under the title of *The Field of Terror, or the Devil's Diggins*, but it is rather nonsensical, and suffers from being acted too much in the shade. Nevertheless there is a great deal of

talent both in the pantomimic diablerie of Mr. Flexmore, and the aerial twirlings and kickings of Mademoiselle Auriol.

The Spanish government has ordered an investigation to be made into the architectural state of all the theatres in Spain, and that those which may not be in a good condition shall be closed. It has also ordered that theatres belonging to municipalities shall be sold forthwith. It has determined not to allow more than one Italian theatre to be established in any place, and has directed that four prizes of 60*l.* each shall be annually granted to the two best dramatic works, the best Spanish libretto, and the best opera produced at Madrid.

The number of theatres at Turin is nine, although the population of the city is only 140,000. All are doing a good 'business,' and at one performances take place twice a day. Two or three of these houses have open air performances.

#### FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Dresden, August 7, 1852.

I MENTIONED to you in a letter dated the 9th of May, that an Illustrated Bible, from designs by Schnorr, executed by the best wood engravers, was preparing for publication. A prospectus of the work has just been issued, and the first number, so long delayed by Schnorr's illness, will appear in a few days. This work is entitled 'Die Bibel in Bildern, von Julius Schnorr von Karolsfeld'; it will contain two hundred and forty plates, which will be divided into thirty numbers, each number containing eight plates. There will be two editions published at the same time, one (the *Prachtausgabe*) which will cost three shillings the number, the other (the *Volksausgabe*), for a poorer class of subscribers, costing only one shilling. I am sorry that, according to the present plan of the publisher, only five or at most six numbers will appear in each year, so that a period of five years at least must elapse before this unique and most valuable work will be completed.

From Wiesbaden we learn that Kaulbach's wonderful cartoon of the *Tower of Babel* is being exhibited in that town for some charitable purpose, and drawing crowds of visitors. Kaulbach has also forwarded to Antwerp some of his cartoons to be placed in the 'Art Union Exhibition,' which it was intended should be opened in the last week of July or first week of August. A picture by Landseer was also to appear, and others by celebrated foreign artists. Great complaints have been made of the illiberality of English artists, in refusing to send their works, or in any way aiding in forwarding the objects of the society.

On the 11th and 12th of last month the great 'Schweizer Sängersfest' was held at Basle, and the prize won by the society of the 'Harmonie,' of Zurich.

The 'Weser Zeitung' mentions the meeting together of another great vocal 'gathering,' the 'Liedertafeln' of North Germany, which took place at Bremer, and at which about two hundred singers were present.

Alexander von Humboldt is daily expected to join the circle of his numerous literary friends in Paris. I find that his 'Cosmos' has appeared in three different English translations, three Spanish, two French, one Italian, one Dutch, one Swedish, one Russian, and one Polish.

So stringent is the prohibition in Austria against Görgey's book on the Hungarian campaign, that Prince Windischgrätz, who asked for special permission to purchase a copy, has received a positive refusal. Görgey himself, however, resides unmolested at Klagenfurt, a town situated about half way between Vienna and Venice.

Kapellmeister Spohr has at length returned to Cassel to resume his duties at the theatre. His lawsuit with the Elector seems as far from coming to a final settlement as ever. The Elector insists on mulcting Spohr in the sum of 550 dollars (reckoned at the rate of about thirteen dollars a day) for his absence from Cassel last summer with-

out leave, and Spohr, who holds his contract from the late Elector, with the stipulated six weeks' holiday at the usual period every year, refuses to allow this sum to be deducted from his pay; the lawsuit seems likely to be a protracted one. That of Hassenpflug, on the contrary, has ended more favourably than was to have been expected, he having been definitely acquitted, and I believe without appeal, by the Prussian courts of jurisdiction.

The same political gloom which has continued for a long time in Cassel, still rests over the ill-fated town, and arrests, and imprisonments in the famous fortress of Spangenberg constantly take place. Spangenberg, a celebrated depository for persons convicted of high treason, consists of a small town and a castle, situated between two small rivers which run through the wildest mountainous country. The castle crowns the summit of a lofty hill, at the foot of which the town is built—a small hamlet, containing two hundred and seventy houses, and about two thousand inhabitants, who subsist principally by the manufacture of linen, which they dispose of by hawking about at the neighbouring fairs and markets. The castle is surrounded by a lofty wall and deep fosse, and is entered by two drawbridges,—one for foot passengers, and one for carriages, and is supplied with water from a well three hundred and ninety feet deep, and nine feet wide, bored through the solid rock. The castle derives its name from the word 'Spange,' a 'buckle,' because the land is full of petrifications of antediluvian animals, in form like a shoe-buckle, and which, in olden times, the people of that neighbourhood wore as ornaments on their shoes. The date of the building is unknown, but it passed first in A.D. 1350 into the hands of the Hessian landgraves. The castle suffered much in the Thirty Years' War, and has for the last hundred years been exclusively devoted to the detention of prisoners of state. The regulations are stricter and the deprivations greater for prisoners here than in any other fortress in Germany. In Prussia, books of science, writing materials under certain restrictions, occasional communications with friends, and a certain time for daily exercise, are all provided for the prisoners of state; *ici on a changé tout cela*. The unfortunate Hessian gentleman who, whether innocently or guiltily, has made himself amenable to the court martial for state offenders, is hurried off between a file of soldiers to Spangenberg, where he, and whatever effects he brings with him, must at once undergo a severe examination. All papers, letters, books, writing and drawing materials, even musical instruments, are removed: even articles of personal comfort, such as extra sheets or bed coverings, or any material which under any circumstances could serve as an occupation or amusement, are taken away. The prisoner is condemned to uninterrupted confinement, except for half an hour's or an hour's daily exercise, and this only when the medical attendant affirms that the state of health of the prisoner requires it; even in such cases of indulgence the captive is followed step by step by a sentinel. No communication with family or friends is allowed. Relaxations of, or exceptions to these rules, are only granted as acts of especial grace, and proceed directly from the Elector himself. In the castle there are eleven cells (*Arrestenstuben*), but more are now being added; the doors and passages are all double-locked, and the windows provided with strong bars and gratings. Each room is furnished with a stove, bedstead and mattress, and pillow, a thick woollen quilt, two sheets, which are changed once a month, one towel, renewed every fortnight, a table and arm-chair, candlestick and snuffers, beer-glass and washing utensils. In this miserable abode are at present confined officers of high rank (one of whom once filled the post of minister of war (*Kriegsminister*), and the post of minister of war (*Kriegsminister*), and gentlemen of station, who drag on their existence here without occupation, without any of the luxuries and comforts of life to which they have been accustomed, and, what is more hopeless still, without any chance of a mitigation of their sentence.



## VARIETIES.

*Lyceum of Natural History in New York.*—At a recent meeting of this Institution, a paper was received from Prof. Adams, of Amherst College, on the extent of the marine zoological province, of which Panama is the centre, with an extended catalogue of the mollusks of that province, embracing copious notes on their synonymy, habitat, and station, made during several weeks' visit at that city. The paper will appear in the ensuing number of the 'Annals of the Lyceum.'

*The Literature of Holland.*—The invention of the art of printing, after many disputes and various investigations, is likely to rest with Laurence Koster, a citizen of Haarlem, born in 1373; the invention was made about 1423. In addition to the invention of the art, the Dutch have issued the most beautiful specimens of typography from the presses of the Elzevirs, Wetsteins, and other celebrated printers. Every one is familiar with such names as Erasmus, Vossius, Lipsius, Heimsius, and Grotius—those gigantic scholars. But the classical elegance with which they wrote Latin, and the familiar use they made of this language, has given an impression that the vernacular tongue is inferior, and not worthy of cultivation. Those, however, who have made themselves acquainted with it, pronounce it 'one of the purest, most nervous, and expressive of the Gothic root.' 'There is scarcely any modern tongue which either contains within itself more plastic elements, or which has been more carefully wrought up and polished; nor has any people paid greater attention to purity of style and elegance of diction than the writers of Holland of late years.'—*Professor Tappan's 'Step from the Old World to the New.'*

*The late American Statesman.*—The funeral ceremonies attending the progress of Mr. Clay's remains to their resting-place in Kentucky have been of an unusual character, for the sincere and simple feeling everywhere displayed. The fourth of July, falling upon Sunday, gave a particular opportunity to blend the personal awe of this event with the historic positions of his life, which was not neglected. Dr. Hawks, Dr. Neville, and others, while the remains were under the guardianship of our city that Sunday morning, spoke of Henry Clay with warm eloquence. At Washington, something of the character of the man seems to have been infused into the speeches of the House and the Senate. The Rev. Mr. Butler's funeral discourse at the capitol had an eloquence rare on such occasions, from its natural expression of the points of character in every one's mind:—"A great mind," said he, "a great heart, a great orator, a great career, have been consigned to history. She will record his rare gifts of deep insight, keen discrimination, clear statement, rapid combinations, plain, direct, and convincing logic. She will love to dwell on that large, generous, magnanimous, open, forgiving heart. She will linger with fond delight on the recorded or traditional stories of an eloquence that was so masterful and stirring, because it was but himself struggling to come forth in loving words; because, though the words were brave, and strong, and beautiful, and melodious, it was felt that behind them there was a soul braver, stronger, more beautiful, and more melodious than language could express. She will point to a career of statesmanship which has, to a remarkable extent, stamped itself on the public policy of the country, and reached in beneficent practical results the fields, the looms, the commercial marts, and the great home of all the land, where his name was with the departed father, and is with the living children, and will be with successive generations, an honoured household word."—*New York Literary World.*

*Successful Authorship.*—We understand that Mrs. H. B. Stowe received yesterday from her publishers, Messrs. Jewett and Co., the sum of ten thousand three hundred dollars, as her copyright premium on three months' sales of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.' We believe that this is the largest sum of money ever received by any author, either American or European, from the sales of a single work in so short a period of time.—*Boston Traveller.*

*Ye Battel Daye.*—The following *jeu d'esprit*, descriptive of the meeting of the Sussex Archaeologists, is from the 'Brighton Gazette':—

"Ho! a joust of joyance rare,  
The Sussex chivalry was there,  
Maidens, matrons, knight and squire,  
All the flower of the shire,  
(In the tilting of this day  
Was there nought of warlike play,  
Only (g)lances that did fly  
Peacefully from eye to eye,  
And the combats' rage was spent  
In a learned argument.)  
From afar, with end aesthetic,  
Philosophers peripatetic,—  
Britton, ancient antiquary,  
History's depository,  
(Tis supposed that he is able  
To describe the tower of Babel,  
That he knows the secrets hid  
Under the great Pyramid,  
And was with the Briton clan  
At Stonehenge, and made the plan.)  
Mantell, wise in fossil stones,  
Very conjuror with bones,  
Hunter, munimental student,  
Sage in dates, in phrases prudent,  
And in force numerical,  
Scholars lay and clerical,—  
All to Battel Abbey came  
In the Ladye Webster's name.  
To the ancient Hall with glee  
Flocked the goodlie companie.  
On the dais, as of old,  
Sate the wisest and most bold,  
Chiefest, like a warrior brave,  
Was the Thane of Waldegrave;  
Then the Minstrels at command  
Sang the deeds of fatherland:  
Lower first, the bard of Lewes,  
Told the conquering Norman's prowess,  
Sad as dying swan he carolled  
Of the final woe of Harold,  
Of the ground whereon he stood  
Drenched with Sax and Norman blood,  
That all saw ere he had done,  
England lost and England won.  
Hunter next with modest grace  
Occupied the minstrel's place,  
And the burthen of his song  
Wrought eftsoons a passion strong,  
For he quashed, with accents bland,  
A tradition of the land,  
Swore the famous Roll of Battel  
None it was but housewife's prattle,  
And in softest tones denied  
Fame to those who fought and died;  
Shrieked the ladies, horror stricken,  
Antiquaries' hearts did sicken,  
Men of high ancestral pride  
Wished him stoned or crucified,  
And the spirits hovering near  
Groaned in torment—sad to hear;  
Fled the companie in haste,  
Hunter honied words did waste,  
Blaauw of Beechland raised his voice  
In a chaunt of wondrous noise,  
Essaying to soothe their fears  
With a song of 'nuts and pears,'  
But in vain—for some do know  
When to stay and when to go;—  
Pitying their loss that day,  
Blaauw of Beechland strode away.  
Now the mid-day meal was spread,  
Where the monks of yore were fed,  
In the vast Refectory—  
'Twas a pleasant sight to see  
Such a joyous companie  
Ranged at tables, o'er and o'er,  
Twice two centuries and more  
Of gay dame and cavalier;  
So they wassail—'till their ear  
One in phrase polite did crave,—  
'Tis the Thane of Waldegrave.  
Then they pledge the Queen around,  
With the shout the crypts resound;  
To the Prince a cup they quaff,  
Him, Victoria's 'better half';  
To the Ladye Webster's name  
Next they drink with loud acclaim;  
Then a mighty shout they gave  
For the Thane of Waldegrave;  
Spake the Thane, and well said he,  
Spake the Thane right gallantly;  
Britton spake, and worthie Lower,  
Hunter meek, and many more;  
Blaauw of Beechland then begun,  
But the dames effrayed did run;—  
As a dream by noise is sped  
The assembly vanished.

ELLA."

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received information from several correspondents of the disreputable means by which the proprietor of 'The Critic' is still endeavouring to foist his journal upon the attention of the public. We learn that in an extensive system of touting, which is being carried out by means of circulars, the Journal in question is now styled 'The Critic, or London Literary Gazette.' We mention this as a caution to our readers, to prevent their being imposed upon.

AERONOMIC,  
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The FIRST VOLUME will be complete in itself, and contain the Authors and their Works in an Alphabetical arrangement. Anonymous books, whose authors cannot be ascertained, will be placed under the most prominent word of the title. The name of each author will be accompanied by a short biographical and characteristic notice, so far as can be ascertained from authentic sources. This will be followed with the full titles of their works, and in all cases where more than one subject is treated of in a volume the whole will be enumerated; so minutely will this be done in some cases, that the methods of the best authors in treating their subjects will be exhibited; and in books of bibliographical interest, from their rarity, expensiveness, or other causes, it will serve as an exact collation.

Where necessary, critical notices of the works will be given, the result of a careful investigation of what has been delivered by the most impartial and able writers. The variations of editions will be noticed, and those that are considered the best will be specified. The authors and books will be enumerated at length which are contained in the collected publications of the Fathers of the Church, Middle Age writers, and others: such as the Bibliotheca Patrum of De la Bigne, of Despot, and of Gallandius; the Bollandine Acta Sanctorum, the Collections of Combès, Routh, Cotelerius, Martene, and Durand, D'Achery, Mabillon, Canisius, Asserian, Ugolini, Bishop Gibson, Wharton, Gale and Fell, Twyssen, the Boyle, Moyer, Bampton, Hulsean, and Warburtonian Lectures; and numerous other collections. It will at once be perceived that this plan embraces objects which have never yet been attempted on a complete scale in any Bibliographical work, and that it will develop the valuable contents of innumerable volumes which are, for want of such lists, of comparatively little use to the Divinity Student.

In the SECOND VOLUME, the whole of the matter contained in the first will be arranged under heads or common places in scientific order, with an Alphabetical Index, by which any subject can be readily referred to; and all authors of any authority who have written on it at once exhibited, with the titles of their Works, Treatises, Dissertations, or Sermons, and a reference to the volumes and pages where they are to be found. Sermons and other illustrations of Scripture will be arranged, not only under the books, chapters, or verses of Scripture on which they treat, but also under the subjects of Divinity; and the Festivals, Fasts, and other days observed by the Church throughout the year. This last department will form a very important feature in the Work; the Library containing an uncommonly complete collection, the whole contents of which will be made available in the readiest manner.

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